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CONFIDENTIAL.

(5325.)

F.O.
424

148

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

REVISION OF THE COMMERCIAL TREATY

BETWEEN

GREAT BRITAIN AND TURKEY.

[In continuation of Confidential Paper No. 5083.]

148

1885.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Revision of the Commercial Treaty between Great Britain and Turkey.

[In continuation of Confidential Paper No. 5083.]

No. 1.

Sir J. Lee to Mr. Currie.—(*Received January* 3.)

Sir, 56, *Mosley Street, Manchester, January* 2, 1885.

I THANK you for your letters of the 31st ultimo. Will you kindly explain to Lord Granville that the question of duties payable in silver or gold is assuming a serious aspect, as the inclosed extract will show. I wrote a paper upon this subject twelve months ago; it would be well to refer Mr. Wrench to that paper.

As to Roumelia, this autonomous province pays Turkey 5,000*l.* a-year in lieu of custom duties. When the proposed railways are completed, and Austria will insist on their completion, Turkey may demand, and probably will do so, an increased amount in lieu of duties. Suppose 20,000*l.* is allowed, Roumelia will make a good thing out of such an arrangement, because if 500,000*l.* worth of goods are shipped by rail at 8 per cent. duty she will get 40,000*l.* I know the Germans are looking forward to this arrangement as enabling them to secure the trade to the European provinces of Turkey.

Yours, &c.
(Signed) J. C. LEE.

No. 2.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Sir J. Lee.

Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 8, 1885.

I AM directed by Earl Granville to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter of the 2nd instant respecting the payment of customs duties in Turkey in gold or silver; and I am to state that your representations on the subject will receive attention.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

No. 3.

Earl Granville to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 5. Commercial.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 8, 1885.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith, for your information, the accompanying copy of a letter from Sir J. Lee respecting the payment in gold or silver of customs duties in Turkey.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

* No. 1.

No. 4.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received January 10.)

(No. 2. Commercial.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January 6, 1885.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copies of two despatches from Mr. Consul Wrench, transmitting the *procès-verbal* of the fortieth meeting of the Commission for Commercial Negotiations, and reporting a meeting held at the custom-house for the discussion of chapter 85 of the new Tariff relating to woollen tissues.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure 1 in No. 4.

Consul Wrench to Mr. Wyndham.

Sir, *Constantinople, January 2, 1885.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a copy of the *procès-verbal* of the fortieth meeting of the Commission for Commercial Negotiations.

This document simply records my acceptance of the classes and taxes for cotton yarns contained in chapter 74 of the new Tariff, which formed the Annex to the 34th Procès-verbal, and was transmitted to you in my despatch of the 31st October last.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM H. WRENCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 4.

Procès-verbal No. 40.—Séance du 20 Novembre (2 Décembre), 1884.

LES Délégués des Gouvernements d'Angleterre et de Turquie se sont réunis aujourd'hui 20 Décembre, 1884.

Le procès-verbal de la séance précédente a été lu et approuvé.

Mr. Wrench revenant à la tarification du coton filé et des ouates qui a fait l'objet du Procès-verbal No. 34 déclare qu'il accepte le groupe 74 tel qu'il a été formulé dans l'annexe du dit procès-verbal.

(Signé) WILLIAM H. WRENCH.
MICHAËL PORTUGAL.

Pour copie conforme :
Le Secrétaire,
(Signé) J. P. VAZZIDIS.

Inclosure 3 in No. 4.

Consul Wrench to Mr. Wyndham.

Sir, *Constantinople, January 3, 1885.*

I HAVE the honour to report that at a meeting held at the custom-house on Tuesday last I discussed with my Ottoman colleague, Michaël Effendi, chapter 85 of the new Tariff relating to woollen tissues.

Bertram Effendi was absent on account of illness; but Horn Effendi, a German specialist recently arrived to replace at the custom-house Bertram Effendi, appointed to the tobacco Régie, was present during the discussion.

I applied myself at this sitting mainly to explaining and supporting the suggestions contained in the Report of the Yorkshire Chambers of Commerce, dated Leeds, 8th December last, which I had received through the Foreign Office.

In this Report the Chambers of Commerce deprecate the application of a duty amounting to 15 per cent. on average values to woollens and mixed woollen fabrics;

they consider the value fixed for "all wool" tissues to be excessive; they advocate the adoption, both for "all wool" and for "mixed woollen" fabrics, of two classes, weighing respectively up to and above 200 grammes per square metre, and they condemn for mixed tissues the definition of "cotton warp," suggesting in lieu thereof the adoption of the description for mixed goods to be found in the new Greek Tariff, or, better still, the introduction of the words "having cotton threads in warp or weft." Finally, the Yorkshire Chambers observe that the tare on bales of woollen goods should be assessed at 10 per cent.

With regard to the first point brought forward by the Yorkshire Chambers, namely, the adoption of 15 per cent. as the rate of duty for woollen fabrics, my colleague repented what he had frequently said before, to the effect that the instructions received from the Porte precluded the discussion, on his part, of any rate of duty below that of a nominal 15 per cent. on the average values of manufactured and finished goods. The object of the Ottoman Government in preparing a new Tariff is to secure to itself, after covering the deficit caused by the abolition of the internal duties, which now produce an annual revenue of some 455,000*l.*, an increase in receipts over and above that derived under the Tariff of 1861, and this object would not be secured unless the rules laid down for the rates of duty were strictly followed, as regards especially articles imported to any considerable extent into Turkey. Although in certain cases, when the classes of merchandize under discussion have been of secondary importance from a fiscal point of view, I have been able to obtain duty at the nominal rate of 12 per cent., but in the case of the woollen fabrics under discussion, Michaël Effendi positively declined to treat on any other basis than that of a 15 per cent. rate.

Thus, for "army cloth" the state of the negotiations is that I have offered 12 per cent., which represents 145 piastres per 100 kilog., but Michaël Effendi maintains his demand for 180 piastres. As the cloth produced in the Turkish provinces somewhat resembles army cloth, and can under certain conditions compete with it, an additional reason for maintaing the rate of duty for this class of cloth exists.

With respect to the second observation in the Report of the Yorkshire Chambers, namely, that the valuation placed on "all woollens" is excessive, Michaël Effendi, although maintaining that the sum of 5,000 piastres per 100 kilog., arrived at by the exhaustive examination of imported merchandize from all countries, which was effected in the first place by the native and finally controlled by the European employés of the Customs, represented a true and even moderate estimate of average prices of all goods coming within that class, yet consented in consideration of the low values of the samples of mixed goods I was able to show him to reduce the tax from 750 piastres previously demanded to 650 piastres.

But with regard to the adoption of classes based on weight per metre, the admission of any phrase in the sense of "having cotton threads in warp or weft," or even the introduction of categories such as those created in the new Greek Tariff, which, together with the regulations for determining these categories, we examined together, my Ottoman colleague declared that one and all were wholly inapplicable to the requirements and the shortcomings of the custom-houses of the Empire, and could not therefore be entertained.

With the exception of the Greek kingdom, he observed, which having but few importing seaports could not be compared to Turkey, which possessed some 380 seaport custom-houses, no European country took notice of the proportion of cotton contained in the general tissue of woollen goods. The adoption of this and of other subdivisions might have been discussed provided that European imports were restricted to the principal Ottoman ports, but that question having been thoroughly considered by the Ministerial Council, when examining the various questions affecting the new Tariff, it had been decided that all the ports of the Empire should be open to the importation of European merchandize.

Of the European Powers, other than Greece, while France, Austria, Italy, and Portugal admit in their Tariffs the distinction between pure and mixed woollens under various burdensome conditions, they do so only on the stipulation that the entire warp shall be of cotton; Germany, Russia, and all other Powers make no distinction in favour of a cotton admixture, but tax the lowest classes of mixed goods as if they were of pure wool. In creating the classification of "woollen goods with cotton warp," the Ottoman Delegates, Michaël Effendi continued, had made a distinct concession to the requirements of British trade, but they could go no further. They could not but oppose absolutely any system of classes that would give rise to doubts or disputes between importers and their officers; for these doubts and disputes, by

being referred to the central authority by the custom-houses at which they might arise, would cause vexatious delays and create overwhelming correspondence, or, by being settled on the spot, would tend to keep alive the abuses which it was one of the principal cares of the Administration to suppress. The different systems I pressed upon his acceptance would all, he declared, more or less tend to create difficulties, doubts, and disputes, besides obliging the Central Administration to supply, at the expense of the fisc, mechanical or chemical appliances to upwards of 370 Provincial Departments, the officials of which would in most cases not know how to use them, and this latter obligation could not be undertaken.

Horn Effendi, whose opinion on these questions was asked, gave it unhesitatingly in favour of the views expressed by Michaël Effendi. He stated that in Germany, where the Custom-house officers are of a far superior class to those of Turkey, the system of levying duty by weight per metre was one that was found to work unsatisfactorily; in order to destroy as little as possible of a material, the measures and scales were adopted to the cutting and weighing of one-tenth part of a metre; the operation of collecting the duties was thus a delicate one, involving the loss of much time and necessitating the employment of intelligent and particularly of honest officials; but disputes were nevertheless frequent, and both officials and merchants were discontented with the working of the system. It was then that my colleague declared that he could neither propose nor entertain any plan for the subdivision of woollen goods other than that included under the head of "cotton warp," but in order to make all concessions possible he would consent to a reduction of the duty on woollen goods with cotton warps from 450 piastres per 100 kilog. to 400 piastres, but eventually he descended to 375 piastres as the utmost limit of his abatement.

I replied that I was not in a position to accept his decision, but that I would report to my superiors on the subject, and await further instructions.

I then brought forward the question of tare, and proposed either the adoption of an increase in tare proportionate to the diminishing size of the bales, or an uniform rate of 10 per cent. on all bales.

Michaël Effendi replied to this demand by saying that considering that the importing merchant possessed the right of verifying the real tare on his bales, a right which the Custom-house authorities would not possess, and that in the case of woollens the verification would not cause injury to the contents of the bale, it was impossible to alter the percentage fixed without also changing the rules themselves—forwarded to you in my despatch of the 29th October last—in the sense of securing to the Custom-house the power it had conceded; besides, he added, I admit that a 7 per cent. tare may be low for some English bales, but it is undoubtedly a high rate for the bales of woollens coming from Austria, and it has been fixed after examination of the tare allowed in the various European Tariffs as a fair average, considering that the merchant has the right of deducting the actual tare whenever it suits him.

I called Michaël Effendi's attention to the introduction into woollen fabrics, both fine and mixed, of silk threads for effect, and he promised to study this variety of goods with a view to their being mentioned in the Tariff apart from mixed silk goods.

I have now the honour to inclose a copy of the whole of the 85th chapter of the new Tariff, as modified at the meeting of Tuesday last, and you will perceive that beyond the reductions I have already mentioned I obtained, by the production of samples supplied to me in England, further concessions under the category of "blankets, travelling rugs, horse covers, &c." The tax on goods of this class coming under the head of "pure wool" has been reduced from 450 to 400 piastres, and of cotton warp goods from 300 to 275 piastres. Shawls have been classed under two heads only instead of under four heads; and the tax on passementerie has been reduced from 600 to 380 piastres, in order to bring cotton, woollen, and linen goods of that nature under one uniform amount of taxation, and thus do away with much vexatious unpacking and examination. The categories of carpets and felts were settled by me in the eighteenth meeting of the Commission, and I reported thereon in my despatch of the 4th July last.

Having now fully reported upon the results of my endeavours to meet the wishes of the Yorkshire Chambers, I would request that I may receive further instructions as to my future proceedings with regard to the treatment of woollen tissues in the new Tariff.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM H. WRENCH.

Inclosure 4 in No. 4.

85. Tissus de Laine.

Dénomination des Marchandises.	Unité.	Droit, piastres or.
		Prs. c.
1. Aba et drap grossier pour soldats, pure laine ou laine chaîne-coton	100 kilog. ..	180 00
Flanelles—		
2. (*a.*) Pure laine	" ..	638 00
3. (*b.*) Laine chaîne-coton	" ..	450 00
4. Velours et peluche pour habillement et ameublement .	" ..	825 00
Tissus de toute espèce non-dénommés ci-dessus, foulés ou non foulés pour habillement d'hommes ou de femmes, pour ameublements, pour parapluies et autres, tels que castor, drap, casimir, buckskin (draps de mode non-unis), damas, reps, lasting (étoffe pour chaussure), camlet, satin, fistanlik, mérinos, chalaki, thibet, orléans, chalis, sof, alpaga, cachemire, mousseline, &c.:—		
5. (*a.*) En laine ou mohair	" ..	650 00
6. (*b.*) En laine ou mohair, chaîne-coton ..	" ..	375 00
Châles—		
7. (*a.*) Véritables de cachemir brodés, tissés, brochés en imitation des châles de cachemir ..	" ..	2,000 00
(*b.*) Autres châles "boghtchas" ainsi que ceintures—		
8. 1. En laine ou mohair	" ..	638 00
9. 2. En laine ou mohair chaîne-coton ..	" ..	450 00
Couvertures de lit, de voyage, de cheval et autres—		
10. (*a.*) En laine	" ..	400 00
11. (*b.*) En laine chaîne-coton	" ..	275 00
Tapis—		
12. (*a.*) En nœuds, tels que: tapis orientaux et leurs imitations Européennes	" ..	450 00
13. (*b.*) Entrelacés, tels que: kilims, gobelins et semblables	" ..	600 00
14. (*c.*) Tissés et bouclés, chaîne imprimée (tapestry) .	" ..	180 00
15. (*d.*) Tissés et veloutés, chaîne imprimée (tapis velours)	" ..	300 00
16. (*e.*) Tissés et bouclés, chaîne non imprimée (tapis Bruxelles)	" ..	300 00
17. (*f.*) Tissés et veloutés, chaîne non imprimée (Tournay-velvet), Axminster) et tapis chenille	" ..	360 00
18. (*g.*) Simplement tissés, ni bouclés ni veloutés (Kidderminster, &c.)	" ..	162 00
Feutres—		
19. (*a.*) Non teints	" ..	120 00
20. (*b.*) Teints ou imprimés	" ..	144 00
21. Dentelles sous forme de bande, de châle, de fichu et autres	" ..	2,250 00
22. Étoffes de laine brodées ou avec applications ..	" ..	2,100 00
23. Bonneterie, tels que: bas, bonnets, gilets, chemises, caleçons, vêtements, gants, et autres tricotages ..	" ..	525 00
24. Passementerie, même avec des fils métalliques ténus, tels que: franges, bordures, cordons, tresses, chenilles, &c.; passementerie et boutonnerie combinée avec du bois, de la corne, du verre, du caoutchouc, &c., tels que: boutons, glands, revêtus de laine	" ..	380 00
	" ..	825 00
25. Tissus en crins purs ou mélangés	" ..	75 00
26. Lisière de drap	" ..	

N.B.—Tares:—En caisses et futailles, 20 pour cent; en paniers, 13 pour cent; en balles, 7 pour cent.

No. 5.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 14.)

(No. 1. Commercial.)
Constantinople, January 3, 1885.

My Lord,

IN reply to your Lordship's despatch No. 154, Commercial, of the 9th ultimo, I have the honour to confirm the statement made by me in my despatch No. 262,

Commercial, of the 24th November, viz., that French merchants are, as regards the acceptance by the Ottoman Government of the silver medjidieh at 19 piastres only, on exactly the same footing as those of Great Britain. This arrangement, so far as the former are concerned, came into force about the 20th of last October, the date when the French Commercial Tariff was abolished and replaced by the 8 per cent. *ad valorem* system.

The Custom-house authorities continue to accept the medjidieh from Austrian merchants at 20 piastres, as the Austro-Hungarian Tariff still remains in force, and does not, in the natural course of events, expire until the year 1890.

In its note to me of the 5th October, which forms an inclosure in my despatch of the 24th November No. 262, the Porte has, as your Lordship will observe, pointed out that the differential treatment meted out in this instance to British merchants does not constitute a real grievance, because in cases where the medjidieh is taken at the rate of 19 piastres only a corresponding reduction is made by the Custom-house authorities in estimating the value of the goods upon which duty is being paid.

With reference to my despatch No. 267 of the 26th November, and to your Lordship's despatch No. 152 of the 5th instant, respectively, I have now the honour of inclosing copy of a note which I have addressed to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, in which, without discussing the correctness of the view thus put forward by the Porte, I have pointed out the necessity which, in the interest of the great commercial relations existing between Great Britain and Turkey, is incumbent upon the Ottoman Government of settling at an early date the rate at which the silver currency of Turkey will under the new Tariff be received at the various custom-houses of the Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 5.

Mr. Wyndham to Assim Pasha.

Constantinople, January 3, 1885.

M. le Ministre,

I DULY forwarded to Her Majesty's Government the note your Excellency did me the honour to address to me on the 3rd October last, in which you state, with regard to the payment of the silver medjidieh to the custom-houses of the Empire at the rate of 19 piastres, that British merchants have no real grounds of complaint, inasmuch as the value of their merchandize is calculated at a similar rate.

Be this as it may, your Excellency will, however, I think, agree with me that arbitrary and sudden changes in the currency of a country are calculated to cause perturbation in commercial affairs, and that it would be wise to obviate, by a timely declaration, any future disturbance in the extensive commercial relations that exist between Great Britain and the Ottoman Empire. Thus, in the Commercial Tariff which the Porte is now negotiating, the duties are stated as being payable in gold piastres, and a doubt is thereby raised with regard to the treatment of the silver medjidieh under the new Tariff. To set this doubt at rest I should be glad to receive from your Excellency an early assurance as to the proposals of the Porte with regard to the rates at which the silver currency of Turkey will be received in the various custom-houses of the Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 6.

Earl Granville to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 9. Commercial.)

Foreign Office, January 14, 1885.

Sir,

I HAVE had under my consideration your despatch No. 2, Commercial, of the 6th instant, with its inclosures from Mr. Wrench, transmitting the *procès-verbal* of the fortieth meeting of the Commission for Commercial Negotiations, and containing a Report on a meeting held at the Constantinople Custom-house, for the discussion of chapter 85 of the new Ottoman Tariff relating to woollen tissues.

I have now to request that you will convey to Mr. Wrench my approval of his proceedings in this matter, as stated in the Reports which accompany your despatch; at the same time instructing him to go on with the examination and discussion of the Ottoman Tariff.

When he has gone through it, he should submit to this Office a General Report (1) on that portion with respect to which he is in agreement with his Ottoman colleagues; and (2) on that portion with respect to which the Delegates of the two Governments are not in agreement; the latter portion to be treated in greater detail.

On the receipt of this Report the final instructions of Her Majesty's Government will then be sent to you for Mr. Wrench's information and guidance.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 7.

Earl Granville to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 10. Commercial.)

Foreign Office, January 19, 1885.

Sir,

I APPROVE your note to the Porte, copy of which is inclosed in your despatch No. 1, Commercial, of the 3rd instant, on the subject of rate in piastres at which the silver medjidieh is accepted from British merchants at the Ottoman custom-houses.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 8.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received February* 12.)

(No. 19. Commercial.)

Constantinople, January 31, 1885.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that I have furnished Mr. Wrench with instructions on the subject of the Tariff negotiations which he is conducting with the Ottoman Government in the sense indicated by your Lordship in your despatch No. 9, Commercial, of the 14th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 9.

Mr. Giffen to Lord E. Fitzmaurice.—(*Received February* 19.)

Office of Committee of Privy Council for Trade, February 18, 1885.

(Extract.)

I AM further to request that you will be good enough to move his Lordship to cause this Board to be informed whether any further steps which may be made public have been taken towards arriving at a settlement of the projected Commercial Treaty negotiations with Turkey beyond those indicated in the Foreign Office letter to this Department of the 25th September, 1883. In the event of no such steps having been taken, the Board would also desire to be informed whether it is to be understood that the Porte has admitted the contention of the British Government, mentioned in the Foreign Office letter to the various Chambers of Commerce of the 9th August, 1883, namely, that British subjects and trade in the Ottoman dominions should enjoy, under the provisions of earlier Treaties, and pending further negotiations, complete most-favoured-nation treatment, or whether a uniform duty of 8 per cent. *ad valorem* is now levied upon all British goods imported into Turkey, in accordance with the proposal of the Porte referred to in your letter to this Department of the 9th April, 1883.

I am to add that the Board would be glad to be furnished with a reply upon this latter point as soon as convenient.

No. 10.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Mr. Giffen.

(Extract.) *Foreign Office, February 24, 1885.*

WITH respect to Turkey, I am to state that commercial negotiations are proceeding, and that an import duty at the rate of 8 per cent. *ad valorem* is still levied on British goods imported into the Ottoman Empire. No agreement has yet been come to with the Porte with respect to customs duties in Turkey.

No. 11.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 34. Commercial.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February 28, 1885.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 2, Commercial, of the 6th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose a despatch which I have received from Mr. Consul Wrench, in which he alludes to the importance of obtaining, in the negotiations with regard to the new Commercial Tariff which are now being carried on between Her Majesty's Government and the Ottoman Government, a definite settlement of the classification of certain kinds of English cloth.

Mr. Wrench incloses eight samples of English cloth goods, which will, in the new Tariff, should the opinion of the Ottoman Delegates prevail, be excluded from the cotton warp class, and be brought under the higher rate of duty as "all wool goods."

Mr. Wrench adds that such a system of classification as the one now advocated by the Ottoman Delegates would press heavily on all English "mixed fabrics."

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 11.

Consul Wrench to Mr. Wyndham.

Sir, *Constantinople, February 25, 1885.*

IN reporting on the 3rd of last month on the treatment of woollen tissues in the new Turkish Tariff, I omitted to mention a fact which appears to be of importance to British trade, as, before calling your attention to the subject, I wished to obtain the opinion of my Ottoman colleagues as to the classification under which certain classes of English cloth would come. Having now obtained this opinion, I beg to state the case.

I had the honour to inform you in my despatch before mentioned that the Ottoman Delegates would not deviate from the two classifications for woollen goods which they had established, these classifications being respectively "all wool" tissues and tissues with "cotton warp." The tax now demanded for the class under which cloth would come is on "all wool" goods 650 piastres, and on "cotton warp" goods 375 piastres per 100 kilog. It follows, as a consequence of this distinction, that cloth of which the warp contains, to any appreciable extent, other materials than cotton, will thereby be excluded from the "cotton warp" class, and be brought under the higher rate of duty as "all wool" goods. This result naturally weighs heavily on all "mixed" fabrics; but it appeared to me to affect most unfavourably certain cloth goods of which samples were supplied to me while in England in 1883. The warps of these goods contain only a very small proportion of cotton, as is proved by a memorandum attached by the manufacturers to the samples in question; and, the values being exceptionally low, the goods are eminently suited to the Turkish market. It seemed to me fatal to the trade that such qualities of cloth should only be able to enter the Empire under a crushing rate of duty.

The samples I have mentioned as supplied to me are herein transmitted. They are eight in number, and were furnished, as appears by the ticket on the reverse side of the material, by Messrs. Jacob Behrens, of Bradford.

I have lately submitted to my colleagues portions of Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 5 of these samples, and, notwithstanding that it is stated on the memorandum attached to them that they contain respectively 8, 8, 10, and 8 per cent. only of cotton in the warp, nevertheless my colleagues unhesitatingly declared that they were "cotton warp" goods.

The test for deciding this point was the simple one which alone is used in Turkish custom-houses for judging similar questions, and consisted in applying a lighted match to the warp. Although this test would not be considered, from a scientific point of view, as conclusive, it is pronounced by the experts of the Custom-house to be practically so, as the cotton burns away without producing the smell and the peculiar residue that would be caused by any admixture of wool or shoddy.

An examination of Messrs. Midgley and Sons sample, President 510, herein transmitted, would lead one to suppose that its warp was of similar material to that of sample No. 1, which represents a like article of an inferior value, were it not that the one is stated as containing 8 per cent. of cotton and the other is declared as "cotton warp."

And thus arises the question: what is the nature of the material that can be introduced, together with a small proportion of cotton, into the warp of a woollen fabric, and which, although present to the extent of 92 per cent. of the whole warp, will yet allow the fabric to come under the category of "cotton warp," and thus pay a lighter duty than it would do if the said textile material were detected to be other than cotton by the Turkish test?

It is quite possible that this question may be of great interest to British manufacturers, and that it might be of advantage to trade were Her Majesty's Government, after causing the samples I inclose to be chemically tested, to make known to commerce that such and such materials can be largely introduced into the warp of woollen goods without causing them to be taxed, under the new Turkish Tariff, as other than woollens with cotton warps.

I beg to state, in conclusion, that I have not retained any portion of the samples submitted with the exception of the pieces cut off from Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 5 for exhibition to my colleagues.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM H. WRENCH.

No. 12.

Earl Granville to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 23. Commercial.) *Foreign Office, March 6, 1885.*

Sir,

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 34, Commercial, of the 28th ultimo, forwarding a Report by Mr. Wrench with respect to the classification of foreign goods.

I have to state, in reply, that the meaning of the suggestion made by Mr. Wrench is not entirely clear. If the goods to which he refers are passed by the Ottoman Customs as cotton warp materials at a reduced duty, it does not appear that any British commercial interests have occasion to complain. And it is further to be observed that the action suggested in the last paragraph but one of his Report would be unusual, and might give rise to embarrassment.

The samples which accompanied Mr. Wrench's Report will be returned by next messenger.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 13.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received March 7.)

(No. 35. Commercial.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March 2, 1885.*

IN accordance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 157, Commercial, of the 20th December last, I duly communicated to Mr. Wrench the copy of the letter from the Bradford Chamber of Commerce relative to tare on sewing silk reeled on wooden bobbins.

I have now the honour to inclose a copy of a Report which I have received from Mr. Wrench, giving the result of his negotiations upon this subject with the Ottoman Commissioners.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 13.

Consul Wrench to Mr. Wyndham.

Sir, *Constantinople, February 28, 1885.*

I HAVE had the honour to receive your despatch of the 30th December last, inclosing a communication, dated the 16th of the same month, from the Chairman of the Bradford Tariff Committee, in which certain representations are made with regard to tare on sewing silk reeled on wooden bobbins.

On the 18th instant, at a meeting with my Ottoman colleagues, I represented the views of the Bradford Committee, contending, however, for a reduction in duty rather than for an increased rate of tare, as I considered that the concession already made in the new Tariff, chapter 74, for cotton thread wound on wooden bobbins, constituted a precedent of which it would be well to avail myself. But I regret to report that the Ottoman Commissioners declined to accede to my demand for a reduction in the tax of 1,200 piastres per 100 kilog. already fixed by them, nor would they entertain the question of an increased tare.

They argued that the tax was already exceedingly low, far lower than it should be in view of the rising industries of Turkey; that the amount of sewing silk imported into Turkey being altogether of a retail quantity, they could not enter into the details of the packing of so unimportant an article, as it would establish a dangerous precedent for other goods of greater importance; that were they to make an allowance for sewing silk wound on bobbins they would have, in the first place, to raise the tax on that packed in other ways, such as on cards, &c., which would give rise to renewed discussions with the Russian and German Delegates; and, in the second place, they would have to calculate the reduction to be made, on the supposition that the trade would take advantage of the concession to introduce sewing silk on bobbins made of the lightest wood and in the most unsubstantial manner, which calculation would result in an augmentation rather than in a diminution of the tax.

Finally, that the trade would speedily adapt itself to the Tariff, either by accommodating a larger proportion of silk to a smaller proportion of wood, or by sending silk and bobbins separate to be subsequently wound here.

I have made inquiries into the import trade in sewing silk, and am credibly informed that it interests British trade to a very limited extent. I cannot find that the machine silk of Messrs. Lister and Co., of Bradford, which is referred to in the letter of the Chairman of the Bradford Committee, is known at Constantinople. The greater portion of the machine silk introduced bears the mark either of a golden star or of a lion; the name of the manufacturer seldom appears; and it is doubtful whether the fact of the tickets bearing an inscription in the English language is always a guarantee that the silk is of English manufacture.

But the native supply of silk for sewing and embroidery has almost entirely superseded the imported article, with the exception of the best machine thread, which is imported, I am assured, in retail quantities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM H. WRENCH.

No. 14.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Mr. Darlington.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March 11, 1885.*

I AM directed by Earl Granville to transmit to you, for the information of the Bradford Chamber of Commerce, a despatch from Mr. Consul Wrench,* reporting his action with respect to the representations made in your letter of the 16th December relative to sewing silk.

I am to request that you will state to the Bradford Chamber of Commerce that it does not appear to be possible to do more in this matter; and I am further to ask that the inclosed despatch may be returned to me at your early convenience.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

No. 15.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received March 21.)

(No. 38. Commercial.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March 17, 1885.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Wrench, inclosing the *procès-verbal* of the 41st meeting of the Commission for the negotiation of a new Commercial Tariff, together with its Annex.

Mr. Wrench states in the concluding paragraph of this despatch that, having discussed all the chapters of the new Tariff with his colleagues, he is now engaged in preparing the General Report which was called for in your Lordship's despatch No. 9, Commercial, of the 14th January last.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure 1 in No. 15.

Consul Wrench to Mr. Wyndham.

Constantinople, March 13, 1885.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of the *procès-verbal* of the 41st sitting of the Commission for negotiating a new Commercial Tariff, together with its Annex.

This meeting took place on the 17th February, but, owing to the necessity for alterations in the Minutes, the *procès-verbal* has only now reached me.

The first matter decided at the meeting was the establishment of an identical tax for emery and sand-paper, as well as for emery-cloth, and this was done in order to simplify the withdrawal of these goods from the custom-house.

The question of silk thread wound on wooden bobbins was then discussed, but as I have had the honour already fully to report upon that discussion in my despatch of the 28th ultimo, it is not necessary for me further to revert to the matter.

My colleagues informed me that they had created two new classes in chapter 66 to meet a demand for separate treatment of tissue-paper ("papier dit de soie"), and that they asked for a 20 per cent. taxation on the white paper, on account of its finer qualities being identical with cigarette-paper. This latter, whether in the sheet or cut up and prepared for the retail trade, is, according to the instructions of the Porte, to be submitted to the highest rate of duty. I reserved the question of the tax on white tissue-paper in the same way as, at the 22nd meeting of the Commission, I had reserved for future agreement that respecting cigarette-paper ("papier de cigarette en feuille"), but I accepted the tax proposed for coloured paper.

Finally, I discussed the duties on silk tissues, chapter 82, with the result shown by the Annex inclosed.

The duties in this chapter have been roughly calculated to represent a 12 per cent. duty on average values, for it was considered by the Government that the imposition of any heavier rate of taxation would tend to encourage the smuggling of silk goods in small parcels over the frontiers of the Empire.

* No. 13.

The classifications adopted for silk goods are manifestly open to objections on the part of manufacturers in the same way as those affecting cotton and woollen tissues, for fabrics made of silk waste will pay the same amount of duty as others composed entirely of silk; nevertheless, presumably from the fact of the taxes being moderate, the British Chambers of Commerce that have been consulted have not suggested any alterations, and the French Delegate, who is now engaged in the discussion of this chapter, has already accepted the classes and the taxes for nearly one-half of the articles composing it.

The silk trade with Turkey interests France and Italy far more than England.

Having now discussed all the chapters of the new Tariff with my colleagues, I am engaged in preparing the General Report called for in your despatch of the 31st January last.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM H. WRENCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 15.

Procès-verbal No. 41.—*Séance du* 5 (17) *Février*, 1885.

LES Délégués des Gouvernements de Turquie et d'Angleterre se sont réunis aujourd'hui 5 (17) Février, 1885.

Sur la demande de Mr. Wrench et afin d'éviter à la Douane aussi bien qu'au commerce des constatations minutieuses et parfois même impraticables, les Délégués établissent une taxe commune de 50 piastres par 100 kilog. pour le papier émeri et autres papiers à polir ou à gratter (groupe 66, article 4) taxés précédemment à 48 piastres et pour la toile émerie (groupe 75, article 14).

Venant ensuite au groupe 81 (soie filée) le Délégué Anglais observe que la taxe de 1,200 piastres par 100 kilog. établie par les Délégués Ottomans sur la soie filée est exagérée lorsque la soie est importée sur bobines en bois, le poids de la bobine dépassant de beaucoup celui de la soie, et demande qu'il soit constitué un article spécial pour ces soies avec une taxe plus modérée afin de ne pas tuer cette branche du commerce.

Les Délégués Ottomans observent que la taxe de 1,200 piastres, très modérée en elle-même, n'a été établie qu'en prenant en considération les soies sur bobines dont parle Mr. Wrench. Ils sont, par conséquent, d'avis qu'on ne pourrait faire un article spécial pour les soies sur bobines sans hausser la taxe de la soie filée sans bobines et dans ce cas on serait obligé de prendre pour base du calcul non les bobines généralement en usage dans le commerce, mais celles qui pourraient être fabriquées du bois le plus léger et dans les dimensions les plus exiguës. Les Délégués Ottomans pensent d'ailleurs que le commerce pourrait bien s'accommoder au Tarif Douanier.

Les Délégués Ottomans informent Mr. Wrench que quelques Délégués étrangers ont demandé la création d'un article séparé pour le papier dit de soie. Mais comme ce papier pourrait se confondre avec le papier à cigarettes que leur Gouvernement veut assujettir à une taxe de 20 pour cent, ils ont jugé nécessaire de n'admettre à une taxe de 8 pour cent que les papiers de soie teints en assimilant les non teints aux papiers à cigarettes. Ils proposent par conséquent pour les articles 7 et 8 du groupe 67 la rédaction suivante:—

7. Papier dit de soie non teint, les 100 kilog., taxe 160 piastres.

8. Papier dit de soie teint, les 100 kilog., taxe 48 piastres.

Mr. Wrench accepte l'article 8, mais il se réserve de se prononcer plus tard sur l'article 7, à cause du taux de 20 pour cent réclamé par ses collègues de Turquie.

Les Délégués ont ensuite examiné le groupe 82 et sont tombés d'accord sur les résultats fixés dans l'Annexe. Ils se réservent toutefois d'étudier la question des tissus de laine très légèrement mêlés de soie pour l'apparence.

(Signé) WILLIAM H. WRENCH.
HORN.
MICHAËL PORTUGAL.

Pour copie conforme:
Le Secrétaire,
(Signé) J. P. VAZZIDIS.

Annexe au Procès-verbal No. 41.

82. TISSUS DE SOIE.

Dénomination des Marchandises.	Unité.	Droit, piastres or.
		Prs. c.
Gaze, étamine et crêpe—		
(*a.*) De soie pure	100 kilog. ..	6,600 00
(*b.*) De soie mélangée, même combinée avec des fils métalliques	„ ..	2,400 00
Tulle de soie, pure ou mélangée	„ ..	3,000 00
Velours et rubans de velours—		
(*a.*) En soie	„ ..	5,000 00
(*b.*) Autres contenant de la soie	„ ..	2,400 00
Tissus lisses, croisés, brochés, ou damassés, ainsi que rubans tissés—		
(*a.*) De soie ou de bourre de soie, même combinés avec des fils métalliques	„ ..	3,600 00
(*b.*) De fils de soie ou de bourre de soie, mêlés avec des fils d'autres matières textiles, même combinés avec des fils métalliques .	„ ..	1,500 00
Tissus de soie ou de bourre de soie, pure ou mélangée brodés ou avec applications	„ ..	4,200 00
Dentelles de soie dite "blondes;" dentelles en soie pure ou mélangée ou combinée avec des fils métalliques ..	„ ..	5,100 00
Bonneterie en soie ou bourre de soie, telle que: chemises, bas, gants et autres tricotages	„ ..	3,900 00
Cordonnets noirs pour puskuls et puskuls confectionnés avec ces cordonnets	„ ..	600 00
Passementerie de soie ou de bourre de soie, même en combinaison avec des fils métalliques tênus (franges, bordures, tresses, chenilles, cordons, &c.). Passementerie et boutonnerie de soie ou de bourre de soie combinées avec du bois, corne, verre, caoutchouc, &c., telles que: boutons, glands revêtus de soie ou de bourre de soie	„ ..	1,500 00

(Signé) WILLIAM H. WRENCH.
HORN.
MICHAËL PORTUGAL.

Pour copie conforme:
Le Secrétaire,
(Signé) J. P. VAZZIDIS.

No. 16.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 21.)

(No. 39. Commercial.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 17, 1885.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I duly communicated to Mr. Wrench your Lordship's despatch No. 23 of the 6th instant relative to his Report respecting the classification of woollen tissues.

I now beg to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Wrench in reply.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 16.

Consul Wrench to Mr. Wyndham.

Sir, *Constantinople, March* 16, 1885.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your despatch of the 12th instant, forwarding to me in original Lord E. Fitzmaurice's communication of the 6th of the month referring to my Report of the 25th February on the classification of woollen tissues.

It appeared to me that if a substance could pass under certain conditions as cotton in the new Turkish Tariff, it would interest the trade to know what that substance was; but as the line of action I suggested may give rise to embarrassment, I have no desire further to press the question on the attention of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM H. WRENCH.

No. 17.

Mr. Darlington to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 25.)

Bradford Chamber of Commerce, Exchange, Bradford,
My Lord, *March* 23, 1885.

AGREEABLY with your Lordship's request contained in your letter of the 11th March, I now return Mr. Wrench's letter of the 28th February, and I am desired by the President to thank your Lordship for the loan of the letter, of which Sir Jacob Behrens has kept a copy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN DARLINGTON.

No. 18.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 26.)

(No. 40. Commercial.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 19, 1885.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 159 of the 31st December last, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Wrench on the subject of the treatment of cotton tissues in chapter 75 of the new Tariff.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure 1 in No. 18.

Consul Wrench to Mr. Wyndham.

Sir, *Constantinople, March* 16, 1885.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 14th January, in which was inclosed a letter dated the 30th December, and addressed by Sir Joseph Lee to Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice, I have the honour to report that I have on two occasions endeavoured to induce my colleagues to adopt the views expressed by Sir J. Lee with regard to the treatment of cotton tissues in chapter 75 of the new Tariff.

I regret, however, to announce that I have been unable to obtain any alterations in the said chapter since it was transmitted to you in my despatch of the 17th December. By a reference to that despatch, you will perceive that I reported fully on the reasons advanced by Michaël Effendi for maintaining the tax of 210 piastres for category (*b*) 4, "Tous les autres blanchis," and that having secured a diminution from 315 to 300 piastres for category (*c*) 2, "Tous les autres tissus (teints ou imprimés)," I stated that I did not think it would be possible for me to obtain any further concessions based upon representations made by manufacturers.

The result of my renewed endeavours fully bears out the opinion I then expressed, for Michaël Effendi, referring to the statistics that have been prepared at the custom-house, showing the values of imports coming under the several categories of chapter 75, expresses his inability to make any further changes whatever.

At the last meeting with my colleagues a *procès-verbal* was drawn up, which I have the honour to inclose, and wherein allusion is made to the above subject.

On the two occasions to which I have referred, the Ottoman Delegates have reverted to the discussion held on the 16th December with regard to tandjibs and mulls.

In my Report dated 17th December I mentioned that I had succeeded, after a lengthened discussion, in inducing Michaël Effendi to consent to the classifications "Tandjibs (sevaspoors) de toutes qualités" and "mulls de toutes qualités."

I was thus led to imagine that they had, in deference to the arguments I used, abandoned the distinction which would exclude heavily filled tandjibs and mulls from these classes, but, in the subsequent conversations, Michaël Effendi has reverted to the subject, and, to avoid any misunderstanding, wishes it clearly laid down that tandjibs and mulls, which are filled to such an extent as to preclude their being used for printing, are to come under the class (*b*) 4 at an advanced rate of duty. He says that these goods are not known in Turkey as either sevaspoors or mulls, but pass under various names, the lowest quality being termed "kefinliks," and used for grave cloths, and although admitting that they are of inferior value to the softer goods, he declares that his instructions will not permit him to class them at less than a 15 per cent. duty. But his principal objection consists in the fact that it is impossible, without resorting to measures such as counting threads and other tests, which the Ottoman Delegates from the beginning have strenuously opposed, to distinguish where the class of filled tandjibs and mulls would end, and that of madapolams would begin, the two qualities run so to say into each other, and merchants would be endeavouring to introduce madapolams as filled tandjibs, and thus disputes would arise. As to the question of price, Michaël Effendi asserts that 15 per cent. on the average qualities would represent 135 piastres per 100 kilog., and that, by paying, under class (*b*) 4, 210 piastres, these goods would be taxed at 23⅓ per cent., which would not be oppressive. I imagine the value of 9 piastres per kilog., on which his calculations are based, is too high, and that the rate would in reality be nearly 33 per cent.

A paragraph on this subject appears in the *procès-verbal* inclosed, and Michaël Effendi proposes to introduce a note to the same effect in the Tariff itself.

I have reported at length on this point, in order that Sir J. Lee, to whom the chapter 75 has been submitted, will understand that the expression, "de toutes qualités," does not include heavily filled tandjibs and mulls, and that these goods, of the importance of which to Manchester trade I am unable to pronounce, will be sacrificed in the most recent modifications of the new Tariff.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM H. WRENCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 18.

Procès-verbal No. 42.—*Séance du* 27 *Février* (11 *Mars*), 1885.

LES Délégués des Gouvernements d'Angleterre et de Turquie se sont réunis aujourd'hui 27 Février (11 Mars), 1885.

Le procès-verbal de la séance précédente est lu et approuvé.

Les Délégués reviennent sur leurs conversations précédentes par rapport au groupe 75 (tissus de coton).

Mr. Wrench demande que les tissus non-transparents blanchis, et qui passent sous le nom de madapolam, soient taxés sur la base de la valeur des écrus majorée de 10 pour cent, les frais de blanchissage n'accusant que cette différence. Les Délégués Ottomans, tout en admettant que les frais de blanchissage soient de 10 pour cent, font savoir que d'après les constatations faites *ad hoc* la taxe de 210 piastres représente exactement le taux de 15 pour cent pour les blanchis importés en Turquie, et que cette divergence d'appréciation doit provenir de ce que les blanchis qu'on importe sont des tissus de qualité supérieure en comparaison des écrus introduits dans leur pays.

Les Délégués Ottomans rappellent à leur collègue d'Angleterre que tout en acceptant selon son désir exprimé dans une séance tenue le 16 Décembre, 1884, la définition de "tandjibs (sawaspoors) de toutes qualités," ils entendent que les mêmes tissus apprêtés de façon à ne pouvoir servir à la fabrication des kalemkiars tels que les tissus appelés "kéfinliks" (lesquels ne sont pas connus dans le pays sous la dénomination de sawaspoors) resteront assujettis à la taxe de 210 piastres, et qu'il en sera de même de l'article "mulls de toutes qualités."

(Signé) WILLIAM H. WRENCH.
HORN.
MICHAËL PORTUGAL.

Pour copie conforme:
Le Secrétaire,
(Signé) J. P. VAZZIDIS.

No. 19.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received March 26.)

(No. 41. Commercial.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 20, 1885.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1, Commercial, of the 3rd January, I have the honour to state that on the 7th instant the Austrian Ambassador was informed by Assim Pasha that the Sublime Porte consents, until further notice, to apply the 8 per cent. *ad valorem* taxation to Austro-Hungarian imports.

Assim Pasha, in the same note, commented upon the friendly disposition evinced by the Austrian Government with regard to the contemplated modification of the Austro-Turkish Commercial Treaty, and begged that instructions on the subject of the new Tariff might be furnished to the Austrian Delegate.

The Austrian Consul-General, Baron Haan, who is designated for the post of Austrian Delegate on the Austro-Turkish Commercial Tariff Commission, has, however, been summoned from Constantinople, in order to take part in the labours at Paris of the Suez Canal Commission.

The trade of Austria-Hungary having now been placed on the 8 per cent. *ad valorem* footing, the medjidieh will now be calculated for Austro-Hungarian subjects by the Custom-house authorities, as it has been for some time past for British subjects, at 19 piastres instead of 20.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 20.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received April 8.)

(No. 43. Commercial.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 31, 1885.*

IN my despatch No. 1, Commercial, of the 3rd January last, I had the honour to forward to your Lordship a copy of a note which I had addressed to the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs, asking his Excellency to favour me with an early assurance as to the proposals of the Sublime Porte with regard to the rates at which the silver currency of Turkey will be received in the various custom-houses of the Empire.

I have now the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of a note which I have received from Assim Pasha in reply, stating that, before the new Turkish Tariff is put into force, the rate at which the silver medjidieh is to be received by the Ottoman custom-houses will be officially published by the competent authorities.

I beg also to inclose a copy of a despatch upon this subject from Mr. Wrench, whom I requested to furnish me with any observations he might have to make upon Assim Pasha's communication.

The admission of the Sublime Porte that the silver medjidieh will be received by the Ottoman custom-houses in payment of dues leviable under the new Turkish Tariff at a fixed rate is considered by Mr. Wrench to be on the whole satisfactory. He draws, however, particular attention to the fact that there appears, from Assim Pasha's note, to be an indication that the question of the rate of the silver medjidieh is to be decided by the Ottoman authorities alone, and observes that, as both this question and that of the duration of that rate are of importance as regards the new Tariff, Her Majesty's Government may not feel disposed to leave their treatment to the uncontrolled appreciation of the Ottoman authorities.

I should be much obliged if your Lordship would kindly favour me with the views of Her Majesty's Government as regards this point.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure 1 in No. 20.

Assim Pasha to Mr. Wyndham.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires, *Sublime Porte, le 21 Mars, 1885.*

J'AI eu l'honneur de recevoir la note en date de 3 Janvier dernier, par laquelle vous demandez à connaître le taux auquel la monnaie d'argent Ottomane sera reçu après la conclusion du nouveau Tarif dans les diverses Douanes de l'Empire.

Cette note a été communiquée à l'Administration Générale des Contributions Indirectes. Il résulte de la réponse de son Excellence Edib Effendi que les autorités compétentes auront soin, avant la mise en vigueur du nouveau Tarif, de porter à la connaissance du commerce, par avis officiel, le taux auquel le medjidié d'argent sera perçu dans les Douanes de l'Empire.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) M. ASSIM.

Inclosure 2 in No. 20.

Consul Wrench to Mr. Wyndham.

Sir, *Constantinople, March 28, 1885.*

I HAVE the honour to return herein the inclosure, in original, in your despatch of the 26th instant.

It would appear that Assim Pasha admits that the silver medjidieh will be received by the custom-houses of the Empire in payment of dues leviable under the new Tariff at a rate to be fixed hereafter. This admission may be considered, I think, as satisfactory, and, under the circumstances, as conceding as much as could at the present time be expected.

But in saying that the competent authorities will publish by official notice the rate at which the medjidieh will be received, Assim Pasha, although not explicit, would appear to indicate that the question will be decided by the Ottoman authorities alone. The rate of the medjidieh as well as the duration of that rate were in 1861 fixed by the Anglo-Ottoman Tariff Commission. (*Vide* Hertslet's "Treaties and Tariffs regulating the Trade between Great Britain and Turkey," 1875, pp. 71 and 72.) Both questions are of importance as regards the new Tariff, and Her Majesty's Government may not feel disposed to leave their treatment to the uncontrolled appreciation of the Ottoman authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM H. WRENCH.

No. 21.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received April 8.)

(No. 45. Commercial.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 3, 1885.*

WITH reference to your despatch No. 9, Commercial, of the 14th January last, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of a General Report by Mr. Consul Wrench on the new Ottoman Tariff, together with an Annex representing the new Tariff at its present state of development.[a]

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 22.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received April 8.)

(No. 46. Commercial.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 3, 1885.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 45, Commercial, of this day's date, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Wrench,

[a] No.

in which he proposes to return to his duties as Her Majesty's Consul at Constantinople pending the receipt of the final instructions of Her Majesty's Government for his guidance in future communications with his Ottoman colleagues with regard to the new Tariff.

I have informed Mr. Wrench that I approve his returning to his Consular duties.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 22.

Consul Wrench to Mr. Wyndham.

Sir, *Constantinople, April* 1, 1885.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 31st January last, I have the honour to report that I have completed the examination and discussion of the new Ottoman Tariff, and have addressed to you, under date of 31st ultimo, a General Report in compliance with your instructions to that effect.

Pending the receipt of the final instructions that Her Majesty's Government propose to issue for my guidance in future communication with my Ottoman colleagues, I propose to return to my duties as Her Majesty's Consul at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM H. WRENCH.

No. 23.

Earl Granville to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 36. Commercial.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 11, 1885.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 43, Commercial, of the 31st ultimo, relative to the question of the rate at which silver currency will be received at Turkish custom-houses, I have to request that you will ascertain the views of other foreign Representatives on the subject.

I leave to your discretion the time and manner of making the inquiry.

I am, &c
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 24.

Earl Granville to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 37. Commercial.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 11, 1885.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 45, Commercial, of the 3rd instant, forwarding Mr. Wrench's Report on the draft of the new Turkish Tariff, in the shape in which it now stands at the conclusion of the discussions between himself and the Ottoman Delegates.

I have to request that you will express to Mr. Wrench my high sense of the ability which he has displayed in these discussions, and my approval of the careful attention which he has given to the various British interests concerned, and the energy with which he has pressed these matters, with very considerable success, in bringing them before the Ottoman Delegates.

In order, however, that his Report and the draft of Tariff should fully give effect to the purposes for which these documents are required, I have to request that the former may be made complete in itself, and that, instead of referring to previous Reports, the substance of such portions of these previous despatches as bear on the particular points adverted to in the General Report may be stated in it. In order to avoid unnecessary labour in preparing the Report finally in the shape required, the copy forwarded by you is returned.

With regard to the Tariff, I have to observe that this document is wanted in English translation in the same way as previous Ottoman Tariffs; for instance, in a manner similar to that in which the Tariff of 1861 is given in Hertslet's volume,

"Treaties on Trade, &c., Turkey, 1875." I have further to point out that all remarks necessary to elucidate the meaning of the new Tariff should be given in it, and not by means of references to *procès-verbaux* and their Annexes.

I have accordingly to request that you will forward a fresh copy of Mr. Wrench's General Report, prepared as now directed, and an English version of the proposed new Tariff. When you forward these documents, I shall be glad to learn your opinion as to the time when Her Majesty's Government should, with most prospect of useful results, give further instructions in the matter, and as to the date when it appears probable that the Porte may seek to put the new Tariff into operation.

I should be glad, at the same time, to receive any further information which you may be able to obtain in regard to the views and intentions of foreign Powers on these Tariff questions.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 25.

Sir W. White to Earl Granville.—(Received May 21.)

(No. 65. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May* 15, 1885.

YOUR Lordship's despatch No. 37, Commercial, of the 11th April, 1885, was received, just before my arrival, by Mr. Wyndham, and its expressions of approbation were conveyed to Mr. Wrench, who was further informed of the manner in which it was desired that his General Report and an English translation of the proposed Tariff should be drawn up and remodelled.

As regards the time when a new Tariff is likely to be submitted to the Porte in a definite form, that period appears extremely distant, if one may judge from the progress hitherto made in negotiating with various countries, and if we bear in mind that the discussions on the subject of the Tariff with the Delegates of Austria-Hungary, Belgium, Italy, and the United States of America, may be said to have barely commenced, as the mere designation of persons to negotiate may hardly be called a beginning.

When Mr. Wrench's full Report and an English translation of the Tariff with his remarks will have been forwarded by me to your Lordship for consideration, the question of further steps likely to be productive of useful results will naturally present itself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 26.

Sir W. White to Earl Granville.—(Received May 23.)

(No. 67. Commercial.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May* 18, 1885.

IN forwarding to your Lordship the accompanying copies of an able Report and Memorandum on the question of the future payment of duties to the Ottoman Custom-house in silver fractions of the Medjidié currency, drawn up by Mr. Consul Wrench, I beg to state that, in my opinion, it represents what appears to be the real condition of this important question, and that Mr. Wrench's conclusions appear to me deserving of the fullest consideration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 26.

Consul Wrench to Sir W. White.

Sir, *Constantinople, May* 15, 1885.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Excellency's despatch of the 27th ultimo, instructing me to ascertain the views of the various Delegates, appointed by foreign Governments for the negotiation of a new Commercial Tariff with Turkey, on the question of the future payment of duties to the Ottoman Custom-house in the silver fractions of the Medjidié currency.

I have consulted all the foreign Delegates at present at Constantinople, that is to say, the German, Italian, Belgian, and American Commissioners; as, with the exception of the first named, none of these Delegates have as yet commenced Tariff negotiations, their attention was called by me for the first time to the matter in question, and they consequently required time to consider their replies. Hence the delay in answering your communication. The opinions of all the above-named Delegates are substantially the same, namely, that there can be no doubt as to the necessity for fixing, with respect to the new Tariff, a rate at which the silver Medjidié currency shall be received in payment of customs duties, and that the term during which the fixed rate shall endure should also be established. Further, that both these points should be decided by agreement between the Powers and the Porte.

Whether this agreement is come to, as proposed by the Belgian Delegate, in the course of the negotiations for a new Treaty, or, as is suggested by the United States' Commissioner, in those for the new Tariff, is a matter for further consideration. All agree that the moment for bringing the question to an issue has not arrived. The following principle is advocated by the German Delegate alone—considering that the relative value of gold and silver, as merchandize, is constantly varying and silver becoming gradually cheaper, he is of opinion that we could not seek to bind the Ottoman Government to fix the rate of its silver currency for any lengthened period, and he considers that a limit of two, or at most of three years, would be sufficient for all the purposes of commerce. Although not arguing with those principles, I reproduce them in order to enable your Excellency to appreciate their merits. When the time comes for treating this question, it will be well to bear in mind that at one time the Health authorities sought, although unsuccessfully, to exact payment of dues in golden liras for hundreds of piastres, and in the silver currency for the fractions alone, thus, a sum of 6,422 piastres should, it was contended, be paid with 64 liras and 22 piastres in silver.

It is not impossible that a similar argument may be advanced by the authorities as regards payments under the new Tariff, although in Turkey no particular proportion of silver coin to gold constitutes a legal tender, on the contrary, the taxes collected for Government account, as well as the dealing of importing merchants with the interior, are based upon payments in silver currency.

In conclusion, I beg to transmit a Memorandum giving the history of the Medjidié currency, which has been drawn up by my Belgian colleague.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM H. WRENCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 26.

Memorandum.

THE Mejidieh money was first coined during the reign of Abdul Medjid to replace the base coins ("beshliks" and "altiliks") which were current in the Ottoman Empire. The Mejidieh money is of gold and of silver. The gold piece is the Turkish lira, issued at 100 piastres; its subdivisions in gold are of 50 and 25 piastres. The subdivisions in silver are of 20, 10, 5, 2, and 1 piastres, and of 20 paras. Five 20-piastre pieces in silver were of the same value as 1 lira in gold. Such were the rates at which the several pieces of the Mejidieh money were issued.

The customs duties and the Port, Health Office, and Life-saving dues have from the beginning been levied in Mejidieh money at their respective issue rates, *i.e.*, the gold lira at 100 piastres and the silver Mejidieh at 20 piastres.

Owing to the depreciation of silver throughout the world, and also, it is said, on account of too large a coinage of silver pieces, the equilibrium between the values of

gold and silver pieces was disturbed; and during the last fifteen years an increase in the value of the gold over that of the silver currency has followed, and at the present moment this difference is quoted at 8 per cent.

As taxes are all paid in silver Mejidiehs the difference between the gold and the silver currency has produced a decrease in the revenues of the State. In order to remedy this inconvenience the Ottoman Government decreed the reduction, by one piastre, in the issue rate of the silver Mejidieh, and declared, nearly five years ago, that the State Treasuries would accept payment in Mejidiehs at only 19 piastres.

The Ottoman Custom-houses wished to apply this Decree to foreign commerce also, but the Diplomatic Missions opposed this measure in virtue of the stipulations of the Treaties, and the foreign tax-payers continued to pay the customs duties in Mejidiehs at 20 piastres.

On the expiration of the term of the Treaties, the system of an 8 per cent. *ad valorem* duty having been adopted towards the commerce of all foreign Powers, the Turkish Custom-houses began to levy duty in silver Mejidiehs at only 19 piastres. The merchants eventually submitted to this, because the appraisement of their goods being also made in Mejidiehs at 19 piastres they found in it a compensation equal to the increase of the duties resulting from these being levied in Mejidiehs at 19 piastres.

The question as to the rate at which silver money should be received at the Ottoman Custom-houses when the new Tariff will come into operation ought, in my opinion, to be for the present reserved, and, at the end of the negotiations for the new Treaties, ought to be made the object of a special understanding between the Powers and the Porte.

(Signed) CALLINUS

Constantinople, May 1885.

No. 27.

Sir W. White to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 3.)

(No. 69. Commercial.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May* 21, 1885.

IN compliance of the instructions addressed by your Lordship to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires in No. 37, Commercial, of the 11th April, 1885, Mr. Consul Wrench has rewritten his General Report on the new projected Ottoman Tariff and the results of his long and laborious negotiations with his Turkish colleagues; and I have the honour to forward a copy of it, together with one of the Tariff.*

Whilst submitting these important results to your Lordship's appreciation I am desirous to be allowed to express my concurrence with that suggestion made by Mr. Wrench at the close of his Report in which he recommends that, whenever it should appear advisable to your Lordship to signify to the Ottoman Government the acceptance of the whole or of a part of this Tariff, a reservation should be made at the same time that as a consequence of any arrangements the Porte might ultimately conclude with other Powers, on points in which we are not directly interested, we should be free to renew the favourable reconsideration of points in which, in our opinion, articles of our industry have not been sufficiently liberally dealt with.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 28.

Sir W. White to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 3.)

(No. 70. Commercial.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May* 21, 1885.

THE accompanying copy of a despatch I have received from Mr. Consul Wrench, and the account he gives of his recent communications with his Ottoman colleagues shows that these gentlemen have received unexpectedly urgent instructions to bring to a conclusion their negotiations for an Anglo-Turkish Tariff.

Simultaneously a note was, I understand, addressed by the Porte to the Russian Embassy asking for the appointment of Delegates to commence negotiations for a Commercial Treaty.

* See Appendix.

With Austria-Hungary the Tariff negotiations have been resumed with experts sent for this purpose from Vienna and Pesth, and this matter takes an appearance which looks as if the Porte had suddenly adopted the resolution to conclude completely at least with one of the Great Powers, and then cause some others to join in accepting the common Conventional Tariff by which means Turkey could then exercise a considerable degree of pressure on those who had not yet come to terms.

I may be wrong in my supposition, but the hope of seeing the Powers in two opposite camps on the Tariff question is one which would be particularly congenial to an Eastern mind.

The question appears to me to resume itself as follows: is there any sufficient advantage to be derived from delaying the termination of these Tariff negotiations, which would counterbalance the risk naturally incurred by allowing other Powers which come later in the field to close their bargains possibly to our detriment?

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 28.

Consul Wrench to Sir W. White.

Sir, *Constantinople, May* 21, 1885.

I HAVE the honour to report that in consequence of having received from his Excellency Edib Effendi, the Director-General of Indirect Contributions, a request that I should resume the negotiations with my Ottoman colleagues with a view to completing at once the new Anglo-Ottoman Tariff, I proceeded yesterday to call upon his Excellency. I explained that until my General Report, with the Tariff and translation annexed, should have reached the Foreign Office and been submitted to examination, I was not in a position to continue the discussion with my colleagues of the points in suspense, that is to say (1) on the question of the duties which amount to 20 per cent. of the value of fiscal articles; (2) on the chapter on cotton tissues; and (3) on that concerning woollen fabrics.

His Excellency expressed his great desire to see the negotiations with England terminated at the earliest possible moment, and called for my Ottoman colleague, Michaël Effendi, to ascertain if no means existed whereby this result could be arrived at. He wished to know the particulars of the points upon which we disagreed, and they were one by one fully explained to him.

With regard to articles of fiscal interest, his Excellency observed that as they did not to any appreciable extent interest English commerce, and as many of the taxes originally demanded had been greatly reduced, a fact I allude to in my General Report, he could not think that England would make any objection to the application of these taxes as set forth in the copy of the new Tariff communicated to myself.

With respect to cotton tissues, his Excellency observed that there appeared to be but two items upon which difference of opinion existed, in the first place with regard to the tax upon non-transparent bleached goods, and, in the second place, as to the taxation of cotton dyed and printed goods. With Michaël Effendi's co-operation the different points of the controversy regarding these two articles were explained to Edib Effendi. The result of the discussion that ensued was that no further reduction was offered for bleached untransparent cotton goods, the reasons being those which I explained in my General Report; but for dyed and printed cottons, after a long consultation with Michaël Effendi, his Excellency said that a reduction would be proposed, if I would at once resume the negotiations, which would fully satisfy the Manchester Chambers. It will be remembered that for these goods the original demand represented 29*s.* 2*d.* per cwt. I succeeded in reducing this demand to 27*s.* 9*d.* per cwt., and I have reason to believe that I shall now be offered a tax equalling 25*s.* 6½*d.*, or slightly below the amount suggested in the latest (26th November, 1881) observations addressed by Sir Joseph Ler to Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice.

Turning to woollen fabrics, the proposals for classifications which would take account of the cotton contained in the general tissue, which were made by the Yorkshire Chambers of Commerce, and their demand for two categories of goods weighing up to and over 200 grammes per square metre were then explained to the Director-General. He at once explained that it would be impossible to introduce the desired distinctions into Turkey, and begged me to represent to my superiors that the Government wished to remove all grounds for misunderstanding between importers

and Custom-house officers, and that, therefore, no definitions that were not easily recognized could be introduced. He was sure the Porte would veto any such distinctions, even were my colleagues to pass them.

Edib Effendi, with Michael Effendi's concurrence, said that concessions could still be made with regard to the tax on "army cloth," upon which I had asked for a 12 per cent. duty, also upon "velvets" as well as upon "woollen lace" and embroidery, but that the two important classes of cloth, and of blankets and travelling rugs had been subjected to the utmost possible abatement in taxation, in the last proposals made to me.

His Excellency further promised that a way should be found to class cloth, containing a few threads of silk for appearance sake, in a manner to satisfy me. Such, Sir, is in brief the result of my interview with the Director-General of Customs; the visit took the form of informal negotiations; and seeing the anxiety of the Porte that the new Tariff should be promptly concluded with England, it occurs to me that it might be possible, were I instructed within a brief delay, to resume and terminate negotiations forthwith, to obtain better terms than might be granted were the discussions adjourned for any considerable time. This observation applies especially to a statement made by Edib Effendi at the close of our interview to the effect that the German Delegate, acting under the new instructions he had received, was on the point of concluding the Tariff, and that the Austrian Commissioners were to begin, ere long, negotiations, and to hold four sittings a-week, with their colleagues, in order to finish within a brief delay.

Having now reported on my interview with the Director-General, I leave the appreciation of the position I have described to your consideration.

I am, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM H. WRENCH.

No. 29.

Sir W. White to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 3.)

(No. 73. Commercial.)

My Lord, *Therapia, May* 29, 1885.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a note *verbale* I have just received from the Sublime Porte by which I am asked to inform Her Majesty's Government that the Imperial Government, considering that the Tariff negotiations are drawing to a close, are desirous that those for a Treaty of Commerce should commence, and request that Delegates should be appointed on behalf of Her Majesty's Government for that purpose.

This step on the part of the Porte confirms the impression reported by me to your Lordship in my immediately preceding despatch No 70 of the 21st May, that the Imperial Government is desirous of pushing on with unusual vigour its scheme of making the new Conventional Tariff complete.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 29.

Note Verbale.

Sublime Porte, le 28 *Mai*, 1885.

LES pourparlers engagés avec le Délégué du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique pour l'élaboration du nouveau Tarif Douanier touchant à leur fin, la Sublime Porte a l'honneur d'informer l'Ambassade Royale qu'elle est prête à entrer également en négociation pour la conclusion d'un nouveau Traité de Commerce.

Le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères vient par conséquent prier l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté la Reine de vouloir bien aviser à la nomination des Délégués qui seront chargés de négocier cet acte avec leurs collègues Ottomans.

No. 30.

Sir W. White to Earl Granville.—(Received June 21, 4 P.M.)

(Commercial.)
(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, June 21, 1885. 1·50 P.M.

CONSUL WRENCH considers it advantageous to close Tariff negotiations before his departure on leave, as [? Turkish] Commissioners appear to be disposed to come to terms, which they may not be later on. My impression similar. Pray telegraph instructions.

No. 31.

Earl Granville to Sir W. White.

(Commercial.)
(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, June 22, 1885, 4·22 P.M.

YOUR Nos. 67, 69, 70, and 73.

Tariff negotiations may be terminated at your discretion making the best terms on the bases suggested. In addition, make special provision to secure most-favoured-nation treatment in regard to all concessions made to other Powers; reserve the right to reopen questions affecting British trade if decisions come to in other negotiations with respect to foreign goods make it advisable to do so; secure that due notice shall be given of the date when the new Tariff will come into force, and try to arrive at an agreement as to payment of customs duties in silver medjidiés.

Answer to your No. 73, and extender of this instruction, by messenger.

No. 32.

Earl Granville to Sir W. White.

(No. 61 A. Commercial. Ext.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, June 22, 1885.

I HAVE had under my consideration your despatches Nos. 67, 69, and 70, Commercial, of the 18th and 21st ultimo.

On the statements now submitted to me with respect to the negotiations on the subject of the proposed new Turkish Tariff, I have to state that Mr. Wrench may be authorized to terminate the negotiation at your discretion, on the bases now suggested by the Porte, making of course the most advantageous terms he can for the British goods still under discussion.

The following conditions should be borne in mind in arriving at this settlement: (1) special provision should be made to secure complete most-favoured-nation treatment for British trade and navigation in regard to all concessions made by Turkey to other Powers; (2) the right should be reserved to reopen questions affecting British trade, if the decisions come to in negotiations with other Powers with respect to goods in which they are interested, renders it, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, advisable to bring forward again any such questions; (3) the new Tariff must effect large alterations in mercantile arrangements generally, due notice (say from three to six months) should therefore be given of the date when it will come into operation; lastly, it would be well for you to endeavour to arrive at an understanding with the foreign Representatives most concerned as to an arrangement with the Porte relative to the question raised in your despatch No. 67, Commercial, of the 18th ultimo, as to the rate at which the silver medjidié currency shall be received in payment of customs dues.

I have communicated to you by telegraph the substance of this instruction.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 33.

Earl Granville to Sir W. White.

(No. 65 B. Commercial.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, June 22, 1885.

IN reply to your despatch No. 73, Commercial, of the 29th ultimo, I have to authorize you to inform the Porte that Her Majesty's Government are willing to meet as far as possible their wishes with respect to the conclusion of a new Commercial Treaty between Great Britain and Turkey. It appears, however, to be premature to enter upon these details until the Tariff has been finally completed and accepted by all the Powers, or at least by those chiefly concerned. You may say, however, should you think it advisable, that Mr. Wrench is authorized to enter into preliminary communications with the proper authorities in order to ascertain the views of the Ottoman Government with respect to the new Treaty. If Mr. Wrench finishes the business connected with the Tariff before he goes on leave, it might be sufficient to engage that he shall enter upon these preliminary communications in regard to the Treaty on his return to Constantinople.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 34.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Sir W. White.

LORD EDMOND FITZMAURICE presents his compliments to Sir William White, and, in compliance with his request, begs to forward to him, for his own use, copies of the confidential correspondence respecting commercial negotiations with Turkey.*

Foreign Office, June 23, 1885.

No. 35.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 25.)

(No. 80. Commercial.)
My Lord,

Therapia, July 18, 1885.

I HAVE the honour, with the present despatch, to forward to your Lordship the copy of one addressed to me by Mr. Consul Wrench, inclosing the Protocols Nos. 13 and 14 of his deliberations with the Ottoman Delegates on the subject of the new projected Tariff for Turkey.

A copy of the Tariff itself accompanied my despatch No. 69, Commercial, of the 21st May last to Earl Granville, and the further concessions that have been obtained by subsequent negotiations will be found embodied in the inclosures.

Mr. Wrench was authorized to sign this new Tariff on behalf of Her Majesty's Embassy by me under instructions from Earl Granville, conveyed to me by a telegram dated the 22nd June, 1885 (No. 63, cypher) extended in a despatch No. 64, Commercial, of the same date.

The several points to which Earl Granville desired me to call his attention were all repeated to Mr. Wrench in my instructions to him dated the 25th June, 1885, of which a copy is likewise inclosed; and I believe that, though he had to soften down the exact terms in which he recorded the several reservations made by him in the final Protocol—and this he did with my approval—it will be found that the Declaration made to his Ottoman colleagues fully bears out in all points Earl Granville's instructions to me of the 22nd June last.

The question as to the rate at which the silver medjidieh currency is to be accepted was not raised, as several of the foreign Ambassadors of the other Powers interested were of opinion that it was not desirable to do so on this occasion.

In this way a most laborious and difficult task intrusted to Mr. Wrench has been brought to a successful termination, and it remains to be seen what further advantages to our import trade with Turkey will accrue from the concessions which other Powers will obtain before the new Tariff becomes a general one and can be applied.

A long time may elapse before this is the case, but it is impossible to say.

* Volumes for 1883 and 1884; Correspondence of 1885 to No. 24; "Commercial No. 9 (1881), "Commercial No. 33 (1880)."

It has been stipulated that proper notice should be given to the trade before this is the case; the Ottoman Delegates objected to a notice of three months for all goods alike, and have only accepted the obligation as to three months with regard to manufactured articles and tissues.

They have accepted the abolition of transit dues, the obligation to construct warehouses, and the careful elaboration of Custom-house Regulations.

Mr. Wrench very wisely, and in accordance with my instructions, stipulated that these Regulations should be carefully framed, and not modified subsequently without due notice being given, and a possibility afforded for diplomatic representation; and it is hoped that by this means an effectual remedy may be found against the numerous abuses now existing.

On the whole, I trust your Lordship will see reason to be satisfied with what has been accomplished, so far, in this very difficult task as regards the new Tariff.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 35.

Consul Wrench to Sir W. White.

Sir, *Constantinople, July* 10, 1885.

I HAVE the honour to report that since receiving the instructions you addressed to me on the 25th ultimo, I have held three meetings with my Ottoman colleagues, which have resulted in the termination of the negotiations connected with the new Commercial Tariff.

The proceedings at these meetings have been embodied in two *procès-verbaux*, which bear the same date, as neither could conveniently be made to precede or follow the other, I have the honour to inclose copies of these documents.

In the *procès-verbal* which bears the No. 44, the conditions upon which Her Majesty's Government consents to the provisions of the new Tariff being applied to British commerce are enumerated.

These conditions are based upon the instructions, both written and verbal, which I have had the honour to receive from yourself. The language used had, as you are aware, so to be selected as to avoid calling forth a vigorous protest, in reply, from my colleagues.

I think that no essential condition has been overlooked, and that the question of the silver currency is the only one to which no allusion is made, but this question, having been broached by the Embassy in correspondence with the Porte, was passed over by me with your verbal permission.

To the Procès-verbal No. 44 is annexed a copy of the Tariff signed and sealed by my colleagues and by myself.

As the lithographed copies of the Tariff are now very limited, my colleagues could not spare a second copy for transmission to the Foreign Office, and I must, therefore, beg that the copy transmitted herewith may be kept in the archives of Her Majesty's Embassy for future reference. This step will not give rise to inconvenience, as the copy of the new Tariff which accompanied my general Report of the 30th March last is the same as that now forwarded, with the exceptions to be found in the Annex to the *procès-verbal* inclosed herein and marked No. 43.

This Annex records the definitive changes introduced for those articles with regard to which I was until now in disagreement with my Ottoman colleagues.

It commences with my acceptation of the duties demanded on the articles treated as fiscal. Next in order is Chapter 75 of the Tariff which relates to "Cotton Tissues."

Beyond the concessions previously promised by my colleagues, and by me duly reported on, this Chapter as it now appears records, firstly, a diminution in taxation to very nearly the amount suggested by Sir Joseph Lees' Committee for (*c*) 1, transparent, dyed, and printed goods; secondly, a greater reduction than was proposed by the said Committee for (*c*) 2, dyed and printed non-transparent fabrics; thirdly, a large reduction on (*d*) goods made of dyed or printed yarns, and upon (11) velvets; and fourthly, a very valuable concession to the interests of Nottingham and Leicester under the head of (V) hosiery, the tax on these goods being reduced from 33*s.* 4*d.* per cwt. to about 22*s.* 4*d.* Further, besides the note agreed to with respect to heavily filled tandjibs and mulls, a second note of a very useful nature has been introduced defining the position of all embroidered goods. The Annex closes with Chapter 85.

Woollen Tissues.—As your instructions authorized me to bring to a close the negotiations on the basis suggested, I abandoned the arguments in support of a more scientific arrangement of the woollen classes, and contended solely for an abatement in taxation. The result was that I obtained reductions in the duties to be levied on army cloth, flannels, velvets, shawls, lace, embroideries, hosiery, and hair goods, which reductions are in addition to those previously promised and reported upon.

These reductions constitute valuable concessions on articles all of which interest British commerce, and that obtained with respect to the article upon which I most insisted, namely, hosiery, is most liberal, being a diminution from 48*s.* 7*d.* to 32*s.* 5*d.* per cwt.

I also caused a note to be introduced, which I trust will have the effect of bringing cloth goods, which, for the sake of appearance, contain a few silk threads, into the cloth categories, and thus avoiding the danger of their being considered as part-silk goods.

In conclusion, I beg to assure you that I have neglected no opportunity, during the negotiations now brought to a close, of obtaining for British commerce the most favourable treatment possible under the new Tariff. In some instances, I have been more successful than I could have anticipated, but I would crave indulgence where I have failed, and would venture in extenuation to point out that, possessing no special training to fit me for the arduous task now accomplished, I have been unable to secure efficient aid from local sources. With regard to one article alone, namely, carpets, have I been able to find competent assistance from a local importing merchant.

Englishmen at Constantinople do not occupy themselves with the important trade, which has long since passed into the hands of Armenians, Greeks, and Jews, whose opinions and advice were of no use to me. The work upon which I have been engaged would, I am decidedly of opinion, have been more perfectly executed, and more compact in form, had Bertram Effendi, a man who was thoroughly competent as an expert, and who had not the fear of responsibility constantly before his eyes, been able to finish the task he began, but he retired from the negotiations at an early stage and left the framing of the greater portion of the Tariff virtually in the hands of his colleague, Michaël Effendi, who, although an able administrator and of an honourable character, has been brought up from his youth as a functionary of the Ottoman Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM H. WRENCH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 35.

Procès-verbal No. 43.—Séance du 27 Juin (9 Juillet), 1885.

LES Délégués des Gouvernements de Turquie et d'Angleterre se sont réunis aujourd'hui 27 Juin (9) Juillet, 1885.

Les Délégués reprennent la discussion des articles laissés en suspens dans les précédentes seances. Ils commencent par les articles pour lesquels les Délégués Ottomans ont demandé 20 pour cent et qui ont formé l'objet des Annexes B des Procès-verbaux Nos. 7, 8, 12, 13, et 22. Après discussion ces articles ont été arrêtés tels qu'ils figurent dans l'Annexe. Par suite de cet accord, les Annexes B des dits procès-verbaux sont annulées.

Les Délégués ont ensuite discuté le Groupe 75 et le reste du Groupe 85 du projet de Tarif. Après avoir résumé les négociations précédentes pour ces deux groupes, pour lesquelles il n'avait été tenu aucun procès-verbal, les Délégués sont tombés finalement d'accord sur les résultats fixés également dans l'Annexe.

Mr. Wrench interpellé par les Délégués Ottomans déclare qu'il accepte les principes de tare ainsi que les tares indiquées dans le projet de Tarif qui lui avait été communiqué en dernier lieu.

Le Délégué Anglais renouvelle sa déclaration du Procès-verbal No. 17 par laquelle il avait fait connaître son désir de voir simplifier sous une rédaction moins détaillée les Groupes 42-58 (métaux hormis le fer). Tout en partageant la manière de voir de leur collègue d'Angleterre, les Délégués Ottomans regrettent de ne pouvoir accéder à cette demande, vu les difficultés qu'il y aurait d'entamer de nouvelles négociations avec les Délégués qui ont déjà arrêté ces groupes.

Revenant à la 41e séance où les Délégués se sont réservés d'étudier la question des tissus de laine très légèrement mêlés de soie pour l'apparence, Mr. Wrench

demande qu'une note explicative soit introduite dans le Tarif à l'effet suivant:—Les draps pour habillement en laine ou en laine chaîne-coton contenant de rares fils de soie mêlés dans le tissu entreront respectivement dans les classes 5 et 6 du Groupe 85.

Les Délégués Ottomans répondent qu'il y a lieu, à leur avis aussi, de faire une exception en faveur des draps dont parle Mr. Wrench, mais que, vu l'impossibilité de fixer une limite pour le mélange admissible de soie, le seul moyen serait de laisser à l'Administration Centrale de décider tout cas de contestation à ce sujet.

(Signé) WILLIAM H. WRENCH.
MICHAEL PORTUGAL.
HORN.

Pour copie conforme:
Le Secrétaire,
(Signé) J. P. Vazzidis.

Annexe au Procès-verbal No. 43.

7. Café, Cacao, Thé.

Dénomination des Marchandises.	Unité.	Droit, piastres or.
		Prs. c.
Café—		
(a.) Cru	100 kilog. ..	110 00
(b.) Torréfié, même moulu, pur ou mélangé de succédanés	100 kilog. ..	110 00
Pellicules de café	" ..	140 00
Chicorée torréfiée et autres succédanés de café	" ..	60 00
Cacao—		
(a.) En fèves	" ..	90 00
(b.) Pellicules	" ..	130 00 (1)
Chocolat, pâte de cacao et poudre de cacao	" ..	30 00
Thé	" ..	200 00

8. Sucre, Mélasse, Sirop.

Sucre—		
(a.) Raffiné, en pains entiers ou cassés, carrés ou en tablettes, pilés, ou en farine; sucre candi	100 kilog. ..	60 00
(b.) Brut	" ..	48 00
3. Sirop de sucre et glucose granulée (sucre amorphe)	" ..	21 00
4. Mélasse; glucose en état liquide	" ..	9 00

9. Boissons Fermentées; Eaux Minérales (*suite*)

Bière—		
1. (a.) En fûts	100 kilog. ..	28 00
2. (b.) En bouteilles	" ..	40 00
3. Alcool en fûts	" ..	10 00
4. Cognac, rhum, arac, eaux-de-vie, et autres spiritueux édulcorés ou aromatisés en futailles	" ..	100 00
N.B.—Les spiritueux compris dans l'Article 4 ci-dessus, qui seront de 75 degrés Tralles ou au-dessus ainsi que l'alcool désigné à l'Article 3, seront assujettis, en outre du droit de douane, à la taxe entière du "miri" et ceux de 50 à 75 degrés Tralles à la moitié de cette taxe.		
Boissons spiritueuses en bouteilles, cruches, ou dame-jeannes—		
(a.) Maraquino, curaçao, chartreuse, et autres liqueurs	" ..	200 00
(b.) Cognac, rhum, arac, eau-de-vie, et autres boissons non sucrées ainsi que alcool en bouteilles	" ..	150 00
Vins—		
(a.) Mousseux	" ..	200 00
(b.) Autres vins et succédanés du vin, cidre, &c., moût de raisin ou d'autres fruits en fûts ou en bouteilles	" ..	100 00
Vinaigre—		
(a.) En fûts	" ..	15 00
(b.) En bouteilles	" ..	37 50

(1) Lisez 120.

23. Huiles Minérales et Etherées, Essences.

Dénomination des Marchandises.	Unité.	Droit, piastres or.
		Prs. c.
Pétrole brut (naphte) et raffiné; benzine en fûts ou en dame-jeannes, et autres huiles minérales et bitumes non dénommés ailleurs	100 kilog. ..	17 00

30. Articles Inflammables.

Allumettes, allumettes-bougies, amadous de toute espèce et mèches salpêtrées pour briquets	100 kilog. ..	140 00
N.B.—Les Délégués Ottomans déclarent que la taxe spécifique arrêtée actuellement pour l'article ci-dessus ne saurait porter préjudice à la faculté que leur Gouvernement veut se réserver en vue de l'établissement d'un monopole.		

66. Papier et Carton.

Papier (1) de soie non teint et papier à cigarettes en feuilles	100 kilog. ..	160 00

67. Articles en Papier et en Carton.

Papier à cigarettes en petits cahiers	100 kilog. ..	200 00
Cartes à jouer	" ..	460 00
N.B.—Les Délégués Ottomans déclarent que la taxe spécifique de 460 prs. pour l'article ci-dessus ne saurait porter préjudice à la faculté que leur Gouvernement veut se réserver en vue de l'établissement d'un monopole.		

75. Tissus de Coton.

I. Tous les tissus à l'exception du velours façon soie—		
(a.) Ecrus, tels que: T-cloths, waste cloths, grey twills, grey drills, grey shirtings, grey cambrics, grey longcloths, et autres tissus semblables, à l'exception de tulle et tulle dit Anglais	100 kilog. ..	125 00
(b.) Blanchis—		
1. Tandjibs (savaspoors) de toutes qualités	" ..	300 00
2. Mulls et tchapalis de toutes qualités ..	" ..	225 00
Observation.—Rentrent dans le § 4 ci-dessous les tandjibs, mulls, et tchapalis qui, rendus non transparents par l'apprêt, ne pourraient servir à la fabrication des kalemkiars, tels que les tissus appelés "kéfalikis."		
3. Gaze, tulle, victoria lawn, et semblables tissus transparents ainsi que les mêmes tissus transparents écrus .	" ..	375 00
4. Tous les autres blanchis, tels que: tissus dénommés au § (a), ainsi que les madapolams, shirtings, piqués, linge de table, mouchoirs ourlés ou non ourlés, futaine, &c.	" ..	210 00
(c.) Teints ou imprimés—		
1. Gaze, tulle, mull, mousseline et semblables tissus transparents, tels que: kalemkiars, turlutans, organdis, &c. .	" ..	550 00
2. Tous les autres tissus tissés ou façonnés, tels que: étoffes pour doublures, draps unis, calicots, crétonnes, piqués, damassés, mouchoirs ourlés ou non ourlés, tissus à raies, à fleurs, &c.	" ..	275 00
(d.) Etoffes tissées de fils teints ou imprimés ..	" ..	216 00
II. Velours façon soie	" ..	480 00

(1) Ajoutez le mot "dit."

Dénomination des Marchandises.	Unité.	Droit, piastres or.
		Prs. c.
III. Broderies à la main, ou à la mécanique, ou avec applications, telles que: rideaux, bandes, entre-deux, &c.	100 kilog. ..	1,000 00
Observation.—Le tissu du fond décide selon l'article "broderies" des Groupes 75, 79, 82, et 85, la taxation des étoffes brodées ou avec applications, sans que la matière des fils ou tissus avec lesquels la broderie ou l'application a été faite soit prise en considération.		
IV. Dentelles	,, ..	1,700 00
V. Bonneterie, telle que: bas, chaussettes, bonnets, gilets, caleçons, gants, et autres tricotages, écrus, blanchis ou en couleurs	,, ..	240 00
VI. Passementerie et boutonnerie, même combinées avec du bois, corne, verre, caoutchouc, &c., telles que: boutons, glands revêtus de coton sur des formes de bois, corne, &c.	,, ..	360 00
VII. Filets de chasse, de pêche, et autres rets ..	,, ..	240 00
VIII. Mèches à lumpes tissées	,, ..	150 00
IX. Toile d'émeri	,, ..	50 00
65. Tissus de Laine.		
Abas et drap grossier pour soldats en laine ou laine chaîne-coton	100 kilog. ..	160 00
Flanelles—		
(*a.*) En laine	,, ..	670 00
(*b.*) En laine chaîne-coton	,, ..	375 00
Velours et peluche pour habillement et ameublement ..	,, ..	750 00
Tissus de toute espèce non dénommés ci-dessus, foulés ou non foulés, pour habillement d'hommes ou de femmes, pour ameublements, pour parapluies et autres, tels que: castor, drap, casimir, buckskin (drap de mode non uni), damas, reps, lasting (étoffes pour chaussure), camlet, satin, fistoulik, mérinos, chalaki, thibet, orléans, chalis, sof, alpaga, cachemir, mousseline, &c.—		
(*a.*) En laine ou mohair	,, ..	950 00
(*b.*) En laine ou mohair chaîne-coton	,, ..	,,
N.B.—Rentrent également dans les §§ (*a*) et (*b*) ci-dessus les draps de laine ou de laine chaîne-coton mêlés d'une quantité minime de soie. L'Administration (1) décidera en cas de contestation.		
Châles—		
(*a.*) Véritables de cachemir, châles brodés, châles tissés brochés en imitation des châles de cachemir	100 kilog. ..	2,000 00
(*b.*) Autres châles (bogchas), ainsi que ceintures—		
1. En laine ou mohair	,, ..	660 00
2. En laine ou mohair chaîne-coton ..	,, ..	400 00
Couvertures de lit, de voyage, de cheval, et autres—		
(*a.*) En laine	,, ..	400 00
(*b.*) En laine chaîne-coton	,, ..	275 00
Dentelles sous forme de bande, de châles, de fichu, et autres	,, ..	2,000 00
Étoffes de laine brodées ou avec applications	,, ..	2,000 00
Bonneterie, telle que: bas, bonnets (2), chemises, caleçons, vêtements, gants, et autres tricotages ..	,, ..	350 00
Passementerie même avec des fils métalliques ténus, telle que: franges, bordures, cordons, tresses, chenilles, &c.; passementerie et boutonnerie combinées avec bois, corne, verre, caoutchouc, &c., telles que: boutons, glands, revêtus de laine	,, ..	360 00
Tissus en crins purs ou mélangés	,, ..	300 00
Lisière de drap	,, ..	75 00

(Signé) WILLIAM H. WRENCH.
MICHAEL PORTUGAL.
HORN.

Pour copie conforme:
Le Secrétaire,
(Signé) J. P. Vazzimis.

(1) Ajoutez le mot "Centrale."

(2) Ajoutez le mot "gilets."

Inclosure 3 in No. 35.

Procès-verbal No. 44.—Séance du 27 Juin (9 Juillet), 1885.

MR. WRENCH annonce à ses collègues Ottomans qu'il vient d'être autorisé par son Gouvernement à clore les négociations du nouveau Tarif uniforme de commerce aux conditions suivantes.

Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique en adhérant au désir qu'a exprimé dernièrement son Excellence le Directeur-Général des Contributions Indirectes de voir ces négociations aboutir à une prompte conclusion, donne une preuve manifeste du concours amical qu'il prête à la Sublime Porte pour l'établissement d'un système douanier régulier et en même temps avantageux au fisc Ottoman.

Mr. Wrench est chargé de rappeler à ses collègues les déclarations qu'il a faites dans la première et la troisième séance de la Commission et qui se trouvent insérées dans les procès-verbaux de ces séances.

D'après ces déclarations le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique considère comme son droit incontestable la jouissance du bénéfice du traitement de la nation la plus favorisée pour les sujets, le commerce, et la navigation de la Grande-Bretagne, et ne consent à appliquer les dispositions du nouveau Tarif aux marchandises Anglaises que lorsque le dit Tarif sera simultanément mis en vigueur à l'égard des provenances de tous les autres pays.

Ce consentement de la part du Gouvernement Britannique dépend également de la mise à exécution des mesures de réforme annoncées par la Sublime Porte, et dont quelques-unes se trouvent dans l'exposé annexé au premier projet de Tarif élaboré par les Délégués Ottomans. Les mesures en question sont la suppression des droits de transit, la simplification des opérations douanières, l'adoption du système de déclarations, et la faculté d'entrepôt à accorder aux articles importés.

Il s'ensuit que le Gouvernement Britannique, quoique désireux de contribuer à mettre fin au régime actuel, régime qui est contraire tant aux intérêts du fisc Ottoman qu'au développement du commerce extérieur, demande comme mesures précédant la mise à exécution du nouveau Tarif, la suppression par avis officiel du droit de transit et la promulgation du Règlement établissant le système de déclarations ainsi que de celui régissant les entrepôts et les droits y afférents. Avant tout l'établissement des entrepôts destinés à l'emmagasinage des articles d'importation et de transit dans les principales villes de l'Empire est une chose requise.

Le Gouvernement Britannique entend aussi que la Sublime Porte abolisse les droits de douane intérieure par mer et ceux de l'exportation, attendu que le premier de ces droits grève d'une manière irrégulière, mais non moins directe, les importations Anglaises et que les revenus provenant de la seconde taxe sont absorbés par les frais de perception. Le Gouvernement Britannique se croit en droit, du moment que de son côté une augmentation très considérable de droits d'entrée est concédée, d'insister sur la suppression de ces impôts, nuisibles tant à son commerce qu'aux intérêts réels de la Turquie.

Les Règlements dont il est fait mention plus haut, de même qu'une nomenclature officielle nécessaire pour déterminer l'application du nouveau régime projetée doivent être, dit Mr. Wrench, soumis à l'appréciation des Délégués des Puissances Contractantes, avant d'être mise en vigueur, pour que d'une part l'expérience acquise en Europe soit mise à la disposition des Délégués Ottomans et d'autre part que les contestations à l'avenir soient prévenues. En outre, toute instruction générale ou circulaire ultérieures, ayant pour objet d'expliquer les articles du Tarif ou d'en déterminer la portée doivent être publiées par voie des journaux et les autorités Anglaises auront le droit d'en contester les dispositions dans les cas où elles sembleraient être contraires aux stipulations du Tarif. Mr. Wrench demande aussi qu'un avis officiel porte à la connaissance du commerce, au moins trois mois à l'avance, la date à laquelle le Gouvernement Ottoman aura l'intention de mettre en vigueur le nouveau Tarif et finit par déclarer que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique accepte la réduction actuelle du dit Tarif comme définitive à moins que des modifications ultérieures soient de nature à faire soulever des points spécieux affectant les intérêts légitimes du commerce Anglais.

Le Gouvernement Britannique a donc autorisé son Délégué, aux conditions ci-dessus énoncées, d'apposer sa signature au Tarif. Cet acte sera suivi par l'acceptation en règle de son Gouvernement dès qu'il paraîtra à celui-ci que l'état des négociations avec les principales Puissances intéressées lui permet de considérer le Tarif comme une œuvre achevée.

Les Délégués Ottomans, après avoir pris acte des déclarations de leur collègue Anglais, répondent que le but déclaré de la réforme douanière consiste essentiellement dans l'établissement d'un Tarif unique pour toutes les provenances et que pour cette raison le Tarif sera sans doute mis en vigueur d'une manière générale à l'égard de tous les pays qui concluront une Convention Commerciale avec la Turquie.

La suppression des droits de transit et la faculté d'entrepôt pour les marchandises importées d'après un Règlement à élaborer, font partie des nouvelles bases sur lesquelles la Sublime Porte a entendu établir le nouveau régime.

La simplification des opérations douanières résultera naturellement de l'application des droits spécifiques du Tarif unique qui remplacera définitivement les anciens Tarifs différentiels et défectueux. Les Délégués Ottomans ne doutent pas que leur Gouvernement ne soit animé du désir d'adopter le système des déclarations, mais ils croient que cette question n'entre pas dans le cadre de leurs délibérations actuelles et ils ajoutent que n'ayant reçu aucune instruction concernant la suppression des droits de douane intérieure et des droits d'exportation, ils se trouvent obligés de sauvegarder sa complète liberté d'action.

Quant aux Règlements, à la nomenclature officielle et aux autres prescriptions administratives requises, les Délégués Ottomans déclarent que leur Gouvernement les publiera et les communiquera aux Puissances Contractantes après avoir consulté les intérêts des commerçants tant indigènes qu'étrangers, mais que cette affaire purement administrative devra être réglée d'une manière autonome par le Gouvernement Ottoman, tout en tenant compte des observations éventuelles des autres Puissances.

La mise en vigueur du nouveau Tarif serait précédée—disent les Délégués Ottomans—d'une publication officielle en temps utile; cependant ils ne croient pas devoir admettre pour tous les articles l'intervalle de trois mois qui séparerait la mise à exécution de l'avis officiel, vu que, pour des raisons économiques et pour prévenir les spéculations outrées, il pourrait être nécessaire de procéder à la perception de certains droits dans le délai le plus bref possible; néanmoins ils adhèrent au désir exprimé par M. Wrench relativement à la publication d'un avis préalable pour la généralité des marchandises, les tissus y compris.

Mr. Wrench déclare en réponse que, tout en maintenant les réserves qu'il a formulées plus haut au nom de son Gouvernement, il se croit obligé d'insister particulièrement à ce que la nomenclature officielle ainsi que les Règlements à élaborer sur d'autres matières soient avant leur mise à exécution communiqués aux Délégués des Puissances Étrangères afin de concilier les dispositions avec les stipulations du Tarif et des Traités en vigueur.

Après cet échange de déclarations les Délégués terminent leurs négociations en signant en deux exemplaires le projet de Tarif annexé au présent procès-verbal.

(Signé) WILLIAM H. WRENCH.
MICHAËL PORTUGAL.
HORN.

Enclosure 4 in No. 35.

Sir W. White to Consul Wrench.

Thérapia, June 25, 1885.

Sir,

YOUR Reports addressed to me on the 15th, 20th, and 21st May, 1885, on the subject of the Tariff negotiations with Turkey, have been forwarded by me in due course to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs; and Earl Granville having had under his consideration the last of the above-named despatches, the one dated the 21st May, giving an account of your interview with the Turkish Commissioner, Edib Effendi, has authorized by a telegram, dated the 22nd instant (received on the 23rd), your terminating these negotiations on the basis suggested, and on the best terms you are able to obtain.

The zeal, sound judgment, and discretion which you have displayed, and the experience you have acquired during these protracted and laborious negotiations, dispense me from entering into any details on the subject of the articles upon which the duty is not yet agreed to by you; but no one is better able to appreciate more correctly than you are which of them are likely to be more favourably adjusted in future arrangements with the Delegates of other Powers, and which others will probably be left out by these gentlemen; and, again, amongst these last ones, which

are those which, by further reduction, can benefit our imports into the Ottoman dominions.

In signing the new Tariff thus elaborated between yourself and the Ottoman Commissioners, you will be careful to intimate to them that its acceptance by you will not be binding upon Her Majesty's Government until an opportunity has been given of examining it as a whole, after it has been made complete. It will therefore be then necessary that all modifications introduced into the draft Tariff be carefully considered, and should it be found that changes have been subsequently made which favour the trade of foreign countries, Her Majesty's Government, preserving unimpaired the full and entire rights of Great Britain to most-favoured-nation treatment as regards her subjects, navigation, and commerce in the Ottoman Empire, reserves to itself the right to demand as regards the treatment of articles of the Tariff which are of paramount importance to British trade, may be subjected to further modifications, such as, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, compensate for any additional concessions made to foreign Powers.

You will point out to your Ottoman colleagues that Her Majesty's Government, in assenting so promptly to their wish to see these negotiations brought to a satisfactory termination, have given a signal proof of their sincere desire to see the Ottoman Empire derive, as early as possible, the full benefit of the application of a more regular system, and one more advantageous to the revenue, substituted for the one which has hitherto been in force, and one which has shown itself so imperfect in practice, whilst a reasonable hope may be entertained that this new Tariff, when fairly and justly applied, will contribute to develop sound commercial relations between the two Empires. It is to be desired that it should be completed as early as possible, in such a way as to put an end, once for all, to the numerous irregularities injurious to the Imperial revenue, irksome to the trading community, and most detrimental to the commercial interests of all countries.

As the principal aim of the new system is to substitute certainty and precision in future commercial relations, it is of great importance that the date when it will come into force should be known beforehand to the trading community. You will therefore stipulate that, as soon as it will be possible for the Imperial Government to fix a date when the new Tariff can come into force, proper notice in due form shall be given of such date to avoid any period of uncertainty.

You will also recall to the recollection of your Ottoman colleagues your remarks made at the third meeting of the Commission, and will inform them that Her Majesty's Government cannot consent to the new scale of entries being applied to British goods until, at least, bonded warehouses have been established at the principal seaports of the Empire. The regulations for the working of these warehouses, and of the charges to be levied, should be submitted to the approval of the foreign Delegates, in order that the experience gained with regard to similar institutions in Europe may be made available.

In a similar way the regulations and instructions to be laid down for the Custom-house officers in explanation of the dispositions of the new Tariff, and prescribing the mode of its application, should be submitted, for their observations and acceptance, to the foreign Delegates, as these will constitute the complement indispensable for its proper working.

Her Majesty's Government are likewise desirous that payments of customs duties in silver medjidiehs should be stipulated for; this it will, I fear, be hardly possible for you to obtain at this early stage of the commercial negotiations, but it is desirable that you should make a distinct reservation of this point for future discussion in deference to Foreign Office instructions.

These instructions have only reached me by telegraph, and with a view to save time, I have drawn up the above in strict conformity to them, and, after previous consultation with yourself; you will, however, be so good as not to bind yourself formally until after I have received the written extender, in case any further point should require elucidation or be added to the same.

I am, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 36.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 25.)

(No. 90. Commercial. Confidential.)

Therapia, July 20, 1885.

My Lord,

SOME weeks ago Mr. Wrench obtained for me, confidentially, a copy of a "Projet de Traité" drawn up at the Sublime Porte, of the kind the French call "a projet type," or model, which it is intended to submit for negotiations with foreign Powers with a view to secure one uniform Treaty of Commerce and Navigation with all countries.

I have the honour to inclose a copy of it, reserving my remarks on the proposals it contains for another despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 36.

Projet de Traité de Commerce et de Navigation.

SA Majesté le Sultan, Empereur des Ottomans,

Sa Majesté

également animés du désir d'étendre et de développer les relations commerciales entre leurs États respectifs, ont résolu de conclure à cet effet un Traité de Commerce et de Navigation, et ont nommé pour leurs Plénipotentiaires, savoir :—

Sa Majesté le Sultan,

Sa Majesté

lesquels, après s'être communiqué leurs pleins pouvoirs, trouvés en bonne et due forme, sont convenus des Articles suivants :—

ARTICLE I.

Les Ottomans en et les en Turquie continueront à jouir pour leurs personnes et leurs propriétés de tous les droits, privilèges, et immunités stipulés en faveur des sujets respectifs dans les Capitulations et Traités antérieurs, à l'exception des clauses des dits Traités et des dites Capitulations qui concernent le commerce et la navigation dont le régime est exclusivement réglé par le présent Traité.

ARTICLE II.

Les deux Hautes Parties Contractantes se garantissent réciproquement le traitement de la nation la plus favorisée pour l'importation, l'exportation, le transit, et en général pour tout ce qui concerne les opérations commerciales et maritimes. En conséquence les sujets et les bâtiments de l'un des deux États obtiendront le droit sur le territoire de l'autre, des franchises, privilèges, et immunités quelconques consentis ou à consentir en faveur de toute autre nation, et ce gratuitement, si la concession est gratuite, ou avec des compensations analogues si la concession est conditionnelle.

ARTICLE III.

Aucun article ne pourra être assujetti dans les États de l'une des Parties Contractantes, lors de l'exportation vers les États de l'autre, à des droits ou charges autres ou plus élevés que ceux qui sont ou pourraient être exigés lors de l'exportation du même article vers tout autre pays étranger.

Le droit d'exportation sur les marchandises exportées de la Turquie n'excédera pas 1 pour cent calculé sur la valeur à l'échelle et payable au moment de l'exportation.

Tout article qui aura déjà payé le droit d'exportation n'y sera plus soumis dans une partie quelconque du territoire Ottoman quand même il aura changé de mains.

ARTICLE IV.

Les sujets de chacun des deux États auront la faculté d'importer dans l'autre toutes marchandises ou articles de commerce, quelque soit le lieu de leur provenance.

Les articles importés par des , par terre ou par mer, seront admis en Turquie aux droits fixés par le Tarif joint au présent Traité et qui en fait partie intégrante.

En ce qui concerne les vins et les spiritueux, les droits de douane seront augmenté en Turquie en proportion des droits d'accise qui seraient établis sur les articles similaires Ottomans.

Les articles importés par des Ottomans par terre ou par mer dans les États de Sa Majesté l' n'y seront point soumis à des droits autres ou plus élevés que ceux qui sont ou pourraient être exigibles lors de l'importation des mêmes articles ou des articles analogues par des négociants indigènes ou étrangers.

Le droit d'importation sera payable au moment du débarquement des marchandises, si elles arriveront par mer, et au premier bureau de douane, si elles arrivent par voie de terre.

Quant aux importations et exportations par chemin de fer, la perception des droits se fera en Turquie conformément aux Règlements spéciaux qui seront édictés par le Gouvernement Ottoman sur la base des dispositions adoptées dans les autres pays en cette matière.

Les droits de douane seront perçus sans préjudice des pénalités édictées en matière de fraude et de contrabande par les Règlements.

ARTICLE V.

Les marchandises de toute nature venant de l'un des deux États ou y allant seront réciproquement exemptes dans l'autre de tout droit de transit.

Dans les principaux ports et dans les villes importantes près des frontières, l'Administration Douanière Ottomane établira des entrepôts où les articles importés pourront être déposés contre un droit d'emmagasinage et sous fermeture douanière pour un délai n'excédant pas douze mois, pendant lesquels les importeurs auront la faculté de les réexporter sans payer un droit de transit ou d'exportation. Passé ce délai les marchandises seront passibles de l'intégralité du droit d'importation.

ARTICLE VI.

Aucune prohibition à l'importation ou à l'exportation et au transit ne pourra être établie par l'une des deux Hautes Parties Contractantes à l'égard de l'autre si elle n'est en même temps applicable à toutes les autres nations étrangères; excepté toutefois les prohibitions ou restrictions temporaires que l'un ou l'autre Gouvernement jugerait nécessaire d'établir par rapport à la police générale du pays ou pour des motifs sanitaires en cas d'épidémie, d'épizootie, de phylloxéra, ou de tout autre fléau.

ARTICLE VII.

Les sujets de chacune des Hautes Parties Contractantes seront traités dans les États de l'autre sur le même pied que les sujets indigènes relativement aux droits d'emmagasinage, d'embarquement, et de débarquement, ainsi qu'à l'égard des primes qui pourraient être allouées.

ARTICLE VIII.

Tout article qui peut ou qui pourra être légalement importé dans les États de l'une des deux Parties Contractantes, ou qui peut ou pourra en être exporté par les bateaux qui appartiennent à l'une des parties, pourra l'être également par les bateaux appartenant aux sujets de l'autre, sans être soumis à des droits ou charges autres ou plus élevés que ceux qui seraient exigibles si cet article était importé ou exporté sur des bateaux nationaux. Cette égalité de traitement sera appliquée soit que cet article vienne directement du pays de production, soit qu'il provienne de tout autre pays.

ARTICLE IX.

Aucun droit de tonnage, de port, de pilotage, d'ancrage, de quaiage, de phare, de quarantaine, ou tout autre droit semblable ou analogue, quelqu'en soit la nature ou la dénomination perçu à ce titre au profit du Gouvernement, de particuliers, de corporations, ou d'établissements d'aucun genre ne sera imposé aux bâtiments de l'un des deux États dans les ports de l'autre, qui ne serait pas également et sous les mêmes conditions imposés aux navires nationaux. Cette égalité de traitement s'appliquera réciproquement aux bâtiments des deux pays de quelque port ou endroit qu'ils viennent ou quelque soit le lieu de leur destination.

ARTICLE X.

Tout bâtiment considéré comme Ottoman par la loi Ottomane et tout bâtiment considéré comme par la loi , sera considéré respectivement comme bâtiment Ottoman ou bâtiment

ARTICLE XI.

Les Firmans exigés des bâtiments de la marine marchande pour leur passage par les détroits des Dardanelles et du Bosphore leur seront délivrés de manière à leur occasionner le moins de retard possible.

ARTICLE XII.

Le cabotage, c'est-à-dire le transport d'un port à l'autre du même pays de personnes et de marchandises, et la navigation fluviale, ne sont pas compris dans les stipulations du présent Traité. Ils seront régis dans chacun des deux pays d'après leurs lois respectives.

ARTICLE XIII.

Par exception aux stipulations de l'Article IV, le tabac sous toutes les formes et le sel ne sont pas compris au nombre des articles que les sujets de Sa Majesté l' ont la faculté d'importer dans l'Empire Ottoman.

Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Sultan se réserve un droit absolu par rapport à ces articles. Le Gouvernement Ottoman se réserve en outre la faculté d'établir un monopole des allumettes et des cartes à jouer.

ARTICLE XIV.

Les sujets ne pourront non plus importer ou transiter dans les États de l'Empire Ottoman ni canons, ni poudre, ni dynamite, ni autres matières explosibles analogues, ni armes, ni munitions militaires.

Le commerce de ces articles reste sous la surveillance immédiate et spéciale du Gouvernement Ottoman, qui conserve le droit exclusif de le réglementer.

Ne sont pas compris dans cette restriction générale les fusils de chasse et les armes de luxe, dont la spécification sera officiellement portée à la connaissance du public par le Gouvernement Ottoman.

ARTICLE XV.

Les capitaines des bâtiments de commerce ayant à bord des marchandises à destination de l'Empire Ottoman seront tenus, immédiatement après leur arrivée au port de destination, de déposer à la Douane deux copies exactes de leur manifeste certifiés par eux conformes à l'original. De même ils doivent, avant leur départ d'un port Ottoman, déposer à la Douane une copie du manifeste relatant les marchandises chargées sur leur navire.

Le manifeste original, soit à l'arrivée, soit au départ, sera présenté en même temps que les copies pour être confronté.

Si un navire s'arrête dans un port Ottoman ou louvoie près des côtes pour des motifs paraissant suspects à la Douane Ottomane, celle-ci pourra exiger la présentation du manifeste et d'autres documents et faire immédiatement toutes perquisitions qu'elle jugera nécessaires. Le double de l'ordre de perquisition sera adressé dans ce cas à l'autorité Consulaire , si celle-ci est à l'approche, qui pourra assister aussi à la perquisition, sans que toutefois cette formalité puisse retarder la perquisition.

De même la Douane aura le droit de faire occuper par l'installation d'un employé à bord toute navire ancré dans les eaux Ottomanes ou d'y faire apposer les scellés ou mettre des serrures sans qu'il y ait lieu à la donner communication aux autorités Consulaires.

Les excédents ou déficits resultant du rapprochement du manifeste avec la cargaison donneraient lieu à l'application des amendes prévues par le Règlement Douanier Ottoman.

L'Administration Douanière Ottomane se réserve également le droit de réglementer les mesures qu'elle jugera nécessaires en vue de prévenir les fraudes et la contrabande tant pour l'introduction des marchandises importées que pour ce qui concerne les colis introduits par la poste, mesures propres à sauvegarder les intérêts du fisc Ottoman.

ARTICLE XVI.

Toute opération de douane en Turquie soit à l'arrivée, soit au départ, doit être précédée d'une déclaration spéciale signée par le propriétaire de la marchandise ou par son représentant. La Douane peut en outre, en cas de contestation, exiger la présentation de tous ces documents qui doivent accompagner l'envoi d'une marchandise, tel que factures, correspondance, &c. Tout refus de faire la déclaration à l'arrivée on au départ, tout retard apporté à la dite déclaration, toute différence en plus ou en moins entre les marchandises et la déclaration donnent lieu à l'application des pénalités prévues par le Règlement Douanier Ottoman.

ARTICLE XVII.

Les marchandises introduites en contrebande seront passibles de confiscation au profit du Trésor Ottoman, sans préjudice des autres pénalités encourues par les délinquants.

Si la Douane Ottomane a des raisons sérieuses pour présumer l'existence d'articles introduits en contrebande dans les endroits quelconques des districts frontières, elle pourra procéder dans les magasins ou demeures à toute perquisition immédiate qu'elle jugera nécessaire. Le double de l'ordre de perquisition sera envoyé à l'autorité Consulaire du sujet , qui pourra assister aussi, si elle le juge convenable, sans que cette formalité puisse retarder la perquisition.

ARTICLE XVIII.

Il est toujours entendu qu'aucun Article du présent Traité ne stipule au delà du sens clair et équitable des termes employés. Chacune des Parties Contractantes conserve ses droits d'administration intérieure et se réserve d'édicter les Règlements propres à faciliter la mise en exécution des stipulations du présent Traité.

ARTICLE XIX.

La franchise des droits de douane n'est maintenue et accordée que pour les effets et objets importés à l'adresse et destinés à l'usage personnel des chefs des missions diplomatiques accrédités réciproquement dans les deux pays.

ARTICLE XX.

Le présent Traité et le Tarif annexé entreront en vigueur le 1er (13) Mars, 1885, et resteront exécutoires pendant dix ans, c'est-à-dire, jusqu'au 1er (13) Mars, 1895.

Le présent Traité sera ratifié et les ratifications en seront échangées à Constantinople dans l'espace de six semaines, ou plutôt si faire se peut.

En foi de quoi les Plénipotentiaires respectifs l'ont signé et y ont apposé leurs cachets.

Fait à Constantinople en double original le 1er du mois de l'an .

No. 37.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. White.

(No. 73. Commercial.)

Foreign Office, July 31, 1885.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 89, Commercial, of the 18th instant, and I have to convey to you my approval of the instructions which you addressed to Mr. Consul Wrench, in accordance with the terms of Earl Granville's telegram of the 22nd ultimo, and which authorized him to sign, under certain conditions, the new Tariff agreed upon between himself and the Ottoman Commissioners.

I have to request that you will inform Mr. Consul Wrench that I approve the manner in which he carried out your instructions, and that I have received with satisfaction the testimony which you bear to the skill which he has shown in bringing these negotiations to a satisfactory termination.

You will bear in mind that it is of great importance that sufficient notice should be given to the trade of this country of the date when it is finally settled that the new

Tariff shall come into force, and I have to request that the attention of Her Majesty's Embassy may continue to be given to this point.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 38.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received August* 1.)

(No. 92. Commercial.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July* 24, 1885.

WITH my despatch No. 90, Commercial, dated the 20th instant, I had the honour to forward to your Lordship the draft of a Treaty of Commerce and Navigation, drawn up at the Porte, of which a copy had been given me, confidentially, under the designation of a "Projet de Traité," &c.

The perusal of this curious project leaves the impression that its authors had chiefly in view the gradual abolition of the various privileges of foreigners, known by the name of "Capitulations," and the accomplishment of this indirectly and insidiously.

The ostensible object is to regulate the commercial and shipping relations of Turkey by one uniform Treaty, to be concluded with all foreign States alike, with a perfect uniformity of stipulations and engagements, and for the same length of time, say for ten years.

The last Article of the "Projet" makes the Treaty lapse at the expiration of the period for which it is concluded, without any notice or denunciation.

This stipulation thus proposed in Article XX is quite inadmissible, after the recent experience we have had, and moreover taken in connection with the text of Article I of the Projet it would, if accepted, create an entirely new situation after ten years.

By Article I of our Treaty of 1861, it was expressly stipulated "that all rights, privileges, and immunities by the Capitulations and Treaties are confirmed now and for ever."

But Article I of the Projet substitutes a wording by which the Capitulations are "continued" instead of being confirmed; and as this Treaty would be for ten years, their existence would be sure to be questioned, and their force denied after its expiration.

The most-favoured-nation treatment was a matter of right under the Capitulations,* but the Porte recently made an unsuccessful attempt to cast doubt on this right in the matter of customs dues. This right was expressly alluded to in the second portion of Article I of our Treaty of 1861; but in Article II of the Projet this most favoured treatment is made to depend on reciprocity and cases where similarity of treatment is granted.

"Gratuitement, si la concession est gratuite, ou avec compensation analogue si la concession est conditionnelle."

Articles II and III of our Treaty of the 29th April, 1861, are evidently purposely omitted in the Projet.

These treated of the rights of British subjects as regards internal trade, re-exportation, &c.

Article III of the Projet reproduces partly the text of Article IV of the former Treaty; but in speaking of export duties it takes no notice of the reasons which plead for their total abolition in Turkey, and which Mr. Wrench adduced in the Protocols. In fact, by this Article an attempt is made to maintain them in force.

Article IV of the Projet has reference to the new Tariff of duties on imports; but its text suggests the following observations.

In speaking of the excise payable on wines and spirits, the word "analogous" appears introduced uselessly. Whilst requiring immediate payment of dues on landing, it does not take any notice of bonded goods, the existence of which must surely follow the construction of warehouses, which has been promised by Article V.

A special Regulation is mentioned as to goods coming by railway. This point deserves special notice; and it would appear extremely desirable to introduce in this place an Article as to railway fares securing most-favoured-nation treatment to British

* See Earl Granville's despatch No. 35 to the Earl of Dufferin, dated March 20, 1884, in Confidential Print Commercial No. 5083, p. 26.

goods carried on Ottoman railways similar to the stipulation made by Article XI of the Treaty between Great Britain and Servia, signed at Nisch on the 26th January (7th February), 1880.

The question of payments in Turkish silver medjidiehs will also most properly come on in this portion of the new Treaty.

The last paragraph of Article IV, commencing with the words "Les droits de douane, &c.," appears entirely superfluous here.

Article V of the Projet stipulates abolition of transit dues and the establishment of warehouses.

The two last paragraphs of the former Article V, viz., no additional duties to be charged, and goods re-exported, have been omitted in the Projet, and ought to be retained.

Article VI. This Article in the Projet treats of prohibitions.

In Article VI of the former Treaty, the imports with vassal Principalities were noticed, and those into Eastern Roumelia would require special mention in the new one.

No important variation is noticed in Articles VII to X of the Projet, but Article XI is less clear and explicit than was the same Article in the Treaty of 1861.

The coasting trade is treated in Article XII with the evident intention of reserving it for native craft. On this point, if there is to be uniformity of arrangements, Belgium and Greece will no doubt offer strong resistance, and we might propose, as a substitute, reciprocity of treatment.

The Projet omits entirely Article XIII of the Treaty of 1861, as to British merchants trading in foreign goods; a very suspicious omission.

Article XIII of the Projet prohibits entirely the importation of salt, tobacco, and arms, and adds two more, viz., matches and cards, as new monopolies are to be created of these articles.

Article XIV is so worded that it might interfere with the trade in gunpowder or other explosive substances by the Black Sea, as also with the transit of guns, &c., not only to Russia, but likewise to Roumania and to Servia by way of the Danube.

Articles XV to XIX contain various Custom-house Regulations, the system of punishing smuggling, &c.; the object of these appears to be partly to introduce infractions of the existing Capitulations by allowing domiciliary visits without Consular assistance in search of contraband goods, and partly to reserve to the Ottoman Government to issue subsequently all kinds of Rules and Regulations.

With a view to guard British interests against the introduction of arbitrary rules Mr. Wrench has made some important reservations in his final Protocol No. 44, and this will be the proper place in the new Treaty for the insertion of some stringent stipulation on this subject.

Article XIX repeals the freedom now enjoyed by the diplomatic staff and Consular officers as to the exemption from customs dues, and of Article XX of the Projet I have had occasion to speak at the commencement of these observations.

It is clear that the approaching commercial negotiations with Turkey are likely to be a very arduous undertaking; fortunately that the Powers are likely to be all united in resisting dangerous innovations.

It might be advisable to draw up and print, for confidential use, a counter-project accepting those Articles in the Projet which are unobjectionable and retaining, from the Treaty of 1861, all those Articles and paragraphs which are of primary importance and some of which I have tried to point out in this despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 39.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. White.

(No. 77. Commercial.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 5, 1885.

I HAVE had under my consideration your despatches Nos. 90 and 92, Commercial, dated respectively the 20th and 24th ultimo, in the former of which you inclose confidentially a copy of a "Projet de Traité" designed by the Porte as a model

for one uniform Treaty of Commerce and Navigation between Turkey and all other countries.

I have now to acquaint you that I concur in the remarks contained in your despatch No. 92, Commercial, as to the objectionable nature of certain of the stipulations contained in the "Projet de Traité," as striking at the privileges secured to this country under the Capitulations, especially as regards the question of most-favoured-nation treatment.

Under the circumstances of the case I have to request that you will prepare a counter-draft of a Commercial Treaty between Great Britain and the Porte in the sense indicated in your last-named despatch, accepting those Articles in the Projet which are unobjectionable, while retaining from the Treaty of 1861 all those Articles and paragraphs which are of primary importance.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 40.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 24.)

(No. 128. Commercial.)

Therapia, October 17, 1885.

My Lord,

THE following is the information I have been able to gather concerning the Tariff negotiations between Turkey and some of the other Powers.

All the foreign Delegates have been away during the last three months, and thus an interruption has ensued, which leaves a good deal to do yet when they return. They are expected about the end of the present month, and it is only when five or six of the Tariffs with the principal countries have been agreed upon that their amalgamation with one uniform Imperial Tariff, equally applicable to all countries, can be worked out and applied.

This will evidently still absorb considerable time, and it does not appear desirable to enter into regular negotiations for a Commercial Treaty as long as these Tariff labours are not more advanced.

With Russia the question of flour and petroleum have not been settled yet; with France an agreement has been arrived at on ninety articles, and has still to be made on a dozen or so; with Austria a certain number of articles are still under discussion, and of these three rather important ones for that country, viz., glass, apparel, and boots.

With Italy these negotiations have made as yet but little progress: whilst M. Gillet, the German Delegate, had almost concluded his task two months ago, but some unforeseen difficulty arose before the signing of the Final Protocol, and the conclusion is, I hear, still in suspense.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 41.

Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received October* 24.)

(No. 129. Commercial.)

Therapia, October 17, 1885.

My Lord,

EARL GRANVILLE, in his despatch No. 65B, Commercial, of the 22nd June, 1885, had authorized me to allow Mr. Consul Wrench to enter into communication with the proper authorities on the subject of a new Commercial Treaty to be negotiated, but merely for the purpose of ascertaining their views.

I have not acted hitherto on this discretionary authority for the following reasons:—

1. Because Mr. Wrench has been absent on leave.

2. Because I do not consider the Tariff negotiations with other Governments sufficiently advanced, as will appear from my immediately preceding despatch No. 128 of this day.

3. For I do not see any other Embassy moving in the matter.

As, however, the Porte has just addressed me a fresh demand in the note of which I inclose a copy, I think it right to submit these remarks for your Lordship's consideration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 41.

Saïd Pasha to Sir W. White.

Constantinople, le 13 *Octobre,* 1885.

M. l'Envoyé,

PAR sa note en date du 8 Juillet dernier, votre Excellence informait le Ministère Impérial qu'il semble au Principal Secrétaire d'État de Sa Majesté Britannique qu'il serait prématuré d'entamer les négociations du Traité de Commerce à conclure entre l'Empire Ottoman et la Grande-Bretagne, avant que le nouveau Tarif ne soit définitivement achevé et accepté par toutes les Puissances ou tout au moins par celles qui sont principalement intéressées.

Votre Excellence n'ignore pas que les pourparlers engagés entre les Délégués Ottomans et leur collègue Britannique, Mr. Wrench, pour l'élaboration du nouveau Tarif, ont pris fin grâce à l'esprit de conciliation dont les deux Parties ont fait preuve durant les négociations. Cependant, et bien que le nouveau Tarif ait été signé *ad referendum* de part et d'autre, Mr. Wrench a cru devoir subordonner l'adhésion de son Gouvernement à certaines conditions. Or celles-ci se rapportent, en majeure partie, à des matières qui par leur nature pourront trouver place dans la négociation du nouveau Traité de Commerce. Par conséquent, la Sublime Porte espère que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique n'insistera par sur leur maintien.

Quant à la négociation du Traité, le Gouvernement Impérial estime que le moment de l'engager est arrivé puisque les pourparlers relatifs à l'élaboration du Tarif sont terminés non seulement avec la Grande-Bretagne, mais aussi avec quelques-uns des autres États qui sont les plus intéressés.

Aussi me permettrai-je de réitérer à votre Excellence la proposition qui a été faite par la note du Ministère Impérial en date du 28 Mai, 1885, à savoir, que des Plénipotentiaires Anglais soient nommés à l'effet d'entrer en négociation avec leurs collègues Ottomans pour la conclusion d'un nouveau Traité de Commerce.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SAÏD.

No. 42.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. White.

(No. 98. Commercial.)

Foreign Office, October 31, 1885.

Sir,

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches Nos. 128 and 129 of the 17th instant, relative to commercial negotiations between the Porte and foreign countries. I concur in the remarks made in the latter of these despatches with respect to the negotiations between Great Britain and Turkey; and I leave to your discretion the precise terms of the answer to be returned to Said Pasha's note of the 13th of this month.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 43.

Mr. Phelps to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received December* 10.)

Legation of the United States, London, December 9, 1885.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to ask your Lordship to be so good as to cause a copy of the Tariff recently negotiated by Her Majesty's Government with the Ottoman Porte

to be sent to me, as I have been asked by my colleague, the United States' Minister at Constantinople, to obtain and transmit it to him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. J. PHELPS.

No. 44.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. White.

(No. 106. Commercial.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 12, 1885.

I HAVE to inform you that the United States' Minister in London has asked for a copy of the Tariff settled between the British and Ottoman Delegates, for the use of the United States' Minister at Constantinople; and that I have communicated to Mr. Phelps, confidentially, the revised translation, pp. 53-102, annexed to Mr. Wrench's Report of the 31st March last.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 45.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Phelps.

Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 12, 1885.

I HAVE pleasure in complying with your request for a copy of the Tariff recently settled between British and Ottoman Delegates at Constantinople. This document is, however, at present a confidential paper, and in communicating it to you confidentially, I have to ask that the United States' Minister at Constantinople may be requested to treat it as such.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.